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VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL Building Excellence Awards 2017

The Sandville Self Help Centre said a big 'thank you' to its volunteers last week. More photos and report on page 4.

Photograph by Keith E Morgan.

Hamster is saved by dog at cat centre!

THE Cat Adoption Centre in Bryncethin came to the rescue of yet another vulnerable animal this week – but this time it was a hamster!

What's more, the hamster owed its survival to Bruce, the sharp-eyed dog who spotted it.

Bruce belongs to Sue Dobbs, the manager of the cat centre, and she said: "Bruce spotted this little hamster dumped in a cage outside the centre whilst out on a walk.

"It was fortunate that Bruce found him, as temperatures were close to freezing and it's unlikely this little cutie would have survived the night.

"The hamster has been named Cocoa – and has been given his forever home by our cat carer, Eleanor."

Eleanor said: "Sadly my two hamsters recently died, so I am glad to be able to give Cocoa a home.

"He is a very friendly chap. It's hard to imagine why his previous owner just abandoned him."

Sue Dobbs added: "Bruce, who is a rescue dog himself, isn't new to spotting animals in distress. A couple of years ago he led us to an injured cat who had been abandoned at the premises and was hiding in the wood shed.

"He is a real hero!"

TURN TO PAGE 18 TO MEET COCOA AND BRUCE!

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Ogmore MP is guest at civic charity's Porthcawl lunch

A WONDERFUL special charity lunch on Sunday, January 15 arranged by the Bridgend Mayor's Civic Charity committee was held at the Hi-Tide Inn, Porthcawl, in conjunction with Mr Geoff Dower of the Hi-Tide Inn.

Photographs by Keith E Morgan.

The food was delicious and enjoyable, well served by very pleasant and well trained staff in warm and homely surroundings.

The comperè for the event was Coun Mel Nott, OBE, the recently-retired Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council. Coun Nott after giving a warm welcome called upon Coun Jeff Tildesley MBE to give Grace before the meal.

When the meals had finished, Coun Nott introduced the speaker, Chris Elmore, Labour MP for Ogmore who chose 'Filling Big Shoes' and 'Life as a New MP' as his topic, which proved very interesting.

Chris Elmore was elected MP when Huw Irranca-Davies resigned and became an AM. He explained that he was born and brought up in south Wales, started working as a trainee butcher but later decided to attend Cardiff Metropolitan University to study history and culture and was successful in receiving a degree and worked in further education.

He was elected a councillor in the Vale of Glamorgan in 2008 and cabinet member for children's services and schools.

He was unsuccessful in the General Election for the Vale of Glamorgan in 2015 but successful as a Labour candidate in the Ogmore by-election in May 2016, then he joined the Justice Selection Committee, also the Welsh Affairs Select Committee then later in 2016 appointed to the front bench position as Opposition Whip and has focused on issues for young people.

He is one of the youngest Labour Members of Parliament and has spoken in many debates since joining Parliament. Chris was accompanied to the lunch by his partner and they live in Pencoed.

A big thank you was given to the comperè, guest speaker Keith Morgan, photographer, Geoff Dower and everyone for attending and supporting the charities for 2016/2017.

The next event is the charity lunch at the Great House Hotel and Restaurant, Laleston on Friday, February 10 at 12.30pm for 1pm. Tickets £25.

For further information and reserving tickets, contact Mrs Mari Major, MBE on 01656 651491.

MM

Mari Major conducting the raffle.

MP welcomes steel report

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon has welcomed the Steel 2020 report and supported its calls for a 'clear vision' and 'national strategy' to save industry and secure future prosperity.

Mrs Moon was speaking as a member of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Steel and Metal Related Industries which published the report on January 27.

The Labour MP said: "The report offers a blueprint for how the UK Government and the devolved administrations could reshape policy to turn the fortunes of the steel industry around, which is essential for so many people in the Bridgend constituency and across south Wales."

The document, titled 'Steel 2020', is the product of an inquiry conducted in collaboration with the University of Leeds Business School.

Two of the report's recommendations are:

1. *A radical reshaping of the energy market to reduce uncompetitive energy costs faced by the steel industry, improving energy efficiency and spreading out the burden of decarbonisation policies.*

2. *Ensuring free and fair international trade by developing a clear UK post-Brexit trade strategy to minimise uncertainty. This should include trade defence instruments against Chinese dumping, as well as maintaining single market access vital to steel and related sectors such as automotive.*

'CONFIDENCE THROUGH LEARNING' LAUNCH

Carwyn Jones AM (centre).

CONFIDENCE Through Learning was opened in Bridgend at 5 Bells Road, Bridgend, by the Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM on January 13.

Confidence Through Learning charity aims to support and help people to 'build their confidence, allowing them to realise their natural abilities, intelligences and strengths, which will aid them to realise their ambitions, gain greater independence, allowing them to choose and plan their future individual journey'.

The project is the brainchild of Toni Hughes, acting CEO for the charity, who came up with the idea.

She said: "We are opening this centre to encourage and build people's self-esteem and self-confidence through learning, allowing them to choose their individual journey.

"I believe there are no barriers to the support we will offer our learners and service users, we will adapt an approach to our programmes to support them individually as we are mindful how hard it is to make changes and take the initial steps to move forwards."

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

'Time to outlaw fox hunting'

IT was good to read the letter from Sharon Richards putting the record straight about her peaceful, anti-hunting protest in Cowbridge on Boxing Day.

She may have been a lone voice of protest on the day but she represents the majority in this country who remain opposed to fox hunting.

The Conservative UK government have pledged to hold a vote in Parliament to reintroduce lawful fox hunting. They promised this in the last parliament but failed to deliver.

We shall wait to see if they keep their promise this time, but don't hold your breath.

Perhaps it would be good to have the debate so that this barbaric, medieval pastime could be outlawed once and for all.

Dr Michelle Huws-Thomas and Jeff Evans, Llantwit Major.

'MP should check statistics for accuracy'

I WAS delighted to read so many news releases from Chris Elmore MP for Ogmore and councillor for the Vale Council.

I counted four in one edition. It doesn't quite beat Jane Hutt's seven in one paper, but certainly a personal best for him!

I was interested to read of his speech in the Commons on Yemen and the report that "40 million people in the country, more than half the population, are going hungry".

I was especially interested because that would mean that the population of Yemen would be around 70-plus million, a couple of million more than Thailand and a few million less than Turkey.

I was under the impression that the population of Yemen was about 26 million.

Perhaps the MP, not yet in office a year, could spend more time checking the veracity of the statistics he repeats; and less time taking part in photo opportunities (which judging by his website and the news from Parliament section is all he does) unless it was The GEM that messed it up!

Either way, it's a bit embarrassing.

Tanya Millibank, Pencoed.

GEM NOTE: The report referred to above was taken from Hansard, the official Parliamentary record. That has now been corrected, as Hansard has accepted that Mr Elmore said 14 million, not 40 million, and was misheard.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 2)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
26 Thur	05.26	8.9	17.47	9.1
27 Fri	06.09	9.3	18.25	9.3
28 Sat	06.45	9.6	19.04	9.5
29 Sun	07.22	9.8	19.40	9.7
30 Mon	07.59	9.9	20.17	9.7
31 Tues	08.37	9.9	20.57	9.6
01 Wed	09.16	9.8	21.33	9.6
02 Thur	09.57	9.5	22.16	9.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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How working on dementia ward inspired friends to raise funds for Alzheimer's

TWO friends from the Bridgend area have organised a fundraising evening as part of their project to raise cash for the Alzheimer's Society.

Abby Price and Lisa Chamberlain-Evans are taking part in the nine-day Great Wall of China Trek (October 12–21) to raise money for the society.

Abby said: "We both work in the Princess of Wales Hospital supporting those with Alzheimer's and their families.

"Dementia can happen to anyone and there's currently no cure. There are 850,000 people with dementia in the UK and the number is set to rise to one million by 2021."

On March 3, at 7pm in Tondu Cricket Club, they are putting on a charity night with live music from the band 'Cabin Fever', Chinese food and raffle – all for £10 per ticket.

Lisa Chamberlain-Evans and Abby Price.

Abby continued: "The Alzheimer's Society believes that life doesn't end when dementia begins. All donations, no matter how small, will help towards either supporting a person who is already living with dementia or their carers, or looking for a cure for future generations.

"Lisa and I want to do this for all the people we have supported over the years. We see, daily, how dementia affects people's lives. We want a world free of dementia.

"This trek is for every single person we've supported with dementia as well as their families and carers.

"Imagine not knowing who you are, who you've been, not recognising your children... "

Tickets are available from Abby or Lisa, on 07523 195325 or 07971 116063.

Donations in support of Abby and Lisa can be made through , www.justgiving.com/abbylisa

Total of '97 per cent satisfaction rating' for local libraries

BOOK lovers in Bridgend County Borough have given their local library service a 97 per cent satisfaction rating in the latest Welsh Public Library Standards performance report.

With nearly 6,000 new library members registered during 2015/16, and it appears to have been a successful first year of Bridgend County Borough Council's partnership with Awen Cultural Trust to run local libraries and other cultural services.

During the first year of the partnership with Awen, a total of 5,744 new members joined up at the county borough's 11 libraries, taking the overall number of registered members up to 74,706.

The report also found that 449,004 visits were made to local libraries, while 450,230 books, DVDs and other items were borrowed.

Almost a quarter of book reservations are now made online, while the number of e-books, e-audio and e-zines loaned annually is up to 25,000.

Richard Hughes, the chief executive of Awen Cultural Trust, said: "As a charity committed to making people's lives better, we are delighted with the progress we have seen over the past year.

"By investing in our staff and resources, we have played a key role in supporting children's literacy, digital inclusion, and health and wellbeing across the county.

"This has been reflected in the record number of attendances at our library events and activities, our most successful summer reading challenge to date, and our partnerships with other community groups, which we look forward to building on over the next 12 months."

Grant aid for life guards

TWO Porthcawl life guard groups received Government grants this week totalling more than £22,790 to help them carry on their good work.

Water rescue charities around the UK were awarded a total of £913,000 by John Hayes, Minister of State at the Department for Transport this week.

It was the third round of funding provided under a five-year, £5 million scheme, announced as part of the 2014 budget statement.

The grants support charities running local lifeboat and rescue services, helping those in danger on and around inland and inshore waterways, including during flooding and other incidents.

The money can be used to buy new lifeboats and other equipment such as lifejackets and safety gear.

The beneficiaries in the Glamorgan area were: Porthcawl Lifeguard Club – £19,780.03; Rest Bay Lifeguard Club – £3,010; Rhondda (Cold Knap) Lifeguard Club – £15,990.43; Surf Life Saving Association of Wales – £22,901.34; and the Civil Aid Voluntary Rescue Association – £5,065.32.

Oldcastle Primary shortlisted for funding

The picture shows children at the cob oven in the school garden: Lewis, Rosie, Ella, Sion, Laila, Chase, Emily, Freya, Rowena, Maisie and Dion.

OLDCASTLE Primary School has been shortlisted to receive a cash boost from the Tesco 'Bags of Help' initiative. Customers are encouraged to vote using the token given to them at the checkout every time they shop in a Tesco store.

The school wants to develop use of a cob oven, and surrounding garden area, to allow children to prepare and cook food in the cob oven, and learn more about heathy eating.

Tesco teamed up with Groundwork to launch the monthly scheme which sees grants of £5,000, £2,000 and £1,000 – raised from the 5p bag tax – being awarded to local outdoor community projects.

Ogmore MP congratulates Pencoed Comp on Estyn Report

Chris Elmore MP (left) with David George of Pencoed Comprehensive School.

OGMORE Labour MP Chris Elmore joined headteacher David George, staff and pupils from Pencoed Comprehensive, to celebrate a 'double good' rating from their Estyn inspection in November.

The school, who have improved from their previous rating, welcomed the MP to a tour where he met and spoke to students and staff. The school has recently worked with Pencoed College on a sixth form partnership, which will see subjects such as law and dance being taught in the school for the first time.

Mr Elmore said: "The pupils, staff, headteacher Mr George and governors have worked tirelessly to improve standards and the school really is seeing the rewards of its hard work.

"It was an absolute pleasure meeting the pupils and staff. The future for Pencoed Comprehensive is certainly on the up.

"Outlined with the Urdd rugby 7s competition they'll be hosting this summer, the partnership with Pencoed College with the sixth form and the improving standards – it is an exciting time for the school."

New member for the Rotary Club

From left: Dr Bob Broughton, Robin Bratton and David Hubbard.

AT its first meeting of 2017, the Rotary Club of Bridgend saw the president, Dr Bob Broughton, carry out the induction of its latest recruit Robin Bratton.

Proposed by David Hubbard and seconded by Ken Freeland, Mr Bratton is already well known to the club as he participates as an active 'Rotary Rambler', and through his involvement in many local events.

Trained as an electrical engineer, Mr Bratton for many years managed a plant hire business in Bridgend and now retired, his classification will be 'Service Management – Retired'.

A spokesperson said: "We wish Mr Bratton well and trust he will have a long, useful and happy Rotary career.

If you are interested in joining or wish to find more about Rotary, contact www.rotarybridgend.org.uk or the secretary of the Rotary Club of Bridgend on 01656 6521812.

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Sandville staff entertain volunteers to lunch

Sister Gwyneth Poacher (second from right) with her team l to r: Gareth Griffiths, Margaret (Peggy) Parish, Irene Keen vice chairman of trustees, and Gary Banks.

Preparing to serve the buffet lunch.

Report and photographs by Keith E Morgan.

IT has become a tradition that every year, Sister Gwyneth Poacher and her staff and trustees at the Sandville Self Help Centre, Tôn Kenfig, entertain the army of volunteers who support the foundation to a lunch at the centre.

For this special lunch, the volunteers are treated like royalty. On arrival, they are welcomed with a glass of wine by Gary Banks, house manager, and then waited on by Gwyneth and her team, Margaret (Peggy) Parish, deputy nursing director, together with vice chairman trustee Irene Keen and Gareth Griffiths, care manager.

Not only does this team serve the lunch to all the volunteers, but they serve the teas and coffees afterwards, before doing the washing up as well.

The catering was very generously provided by Gareth Maund of the Prince of Wales public house at Kenfig.

There are 111 volunteers on the books at Sandville and 65 attended the lunch.

After enjoying a hearty meal, the volunteers were entertained by fellow volunteer Jacqui Adams who ran an Irish Bingo followed by a raffle and a quoits competition.

Sister Gwyneth Poacher wishes to thank not only the faithful volunteers who willingly give up their time to help the Sandville Self Help Centre, but to all those other friends and contractors who unstintingly put in maximum effort to ensure that the high standards set at Sandville Court are maintained at all times.

Gwyneth would like to invite everyone to join her at the 34th Thanksgiving Service at All Saints' Church, Porthcawl, at 3pm on Sunday, February 5, and to join her afterwards for the celebrations at Sandville Court where refreshments will be served and entertainment provided by that well known performing group, 'The Sandville Scrubbers'.

Jacqui Adams, entertainment organiser, under way with Irish Bingo and giving it all she's got!

Choir gives school rugby team a smart new look!

Oldcastle rugby team in their new jerseys with David Burt and Martin Cadogan from Bridgend Male Choir, and Jeremy Malessa-Thompson, John Ambani, Beth Lewis and David McNally from Oldcastle Primary School.

OLDCASTLE Primary School rugby team are looking great, following a donation from Bridgend Male Choir, which has supplied them with new rugby jerseys in school colours.

The team is made up of year 5 and 6 children, and play matches throughout the school term against other primary schools in the area.

Bridgend Male Choir is a successful choir with over 80 members and utilise facilities in the school every week for rehearsing. The choir has been established since 1960 and regularly gives concerts in Wales, the rest of the UK and internationally.

"We are delighted to be able to sponsor the rugby team in Oldcastle Primary School as we know that there was a need for new jerseys. It is pleasing to see the team all wearing the same style of jersey and we are proud to see our name on the front of the shirt," said David Burt of the choir's executive committee.

"The school is so grateful to the choir for helping us purchase the new kit, the rugby team certainly look the part when they hit the rugby pitch! All players are proud to be representing Oldcastle Primary School and we can't thank Bridgend Male Voice choir enough for the kind donation," said John Ambani, who teaches at Oldcastle Primary.

SP

'Plaid and Labour are just too cosy' writes GEM reader

WITH the local elections on the horizon, maybe Labour and Plaid voters should take note of recent Welsh Assembly political developments.

Labour and Plaid are cosying up and you can't put a ballot paper between them, so just put a cross beside either when you vote and you get the same result, simple.

So following on from that, and despite the overwhelming vote for leaving the EU, and the main reason everyone agrees being the immigration issue, Leanne Woods and our esteemed leader Carwyn Jones have now cobbled together a joint agreement between both parties which they think is a winner to enable GB to stay in the single market. It seems they don't get the message do they?

Their groundbreaking new idea? The British Government should let migrants from the EU come to Wales as long as they have a job to come to, and then we can continue to rub along with Europe.

But what if you are Welsh and unemployed and you would wish for one of these jobs on offer? Come on now! Don't be selfish, trust our leaders. Both Plaid and Labour say they put Wales and the Welsh citizen first and are parties of the people.

They'll come up with something.

Ian Hampton, Maesteg

Latest news from the Pen y Fai WI

THE ladies were welcomed back after the Christmas holidays by president Angela Smith, who gave a short resumé of the aims and purposes of the WI.

After the general business of the night, a vote was taken on interest in setting up a luncheon club to operate once a month. Members decided to try out the second Wednesday of each month, starting on March 8 at The Pheasant in Pen-y-Fai. Then will follow a coffee morning at 11am at the same venue.

Membership subscriptions were taken for the coming year; and at the same time the ladies were given a short quiz while enjoying a cup of tea and a catch up with friends.

Names were also taken for trips to the GFWI Fashion Show in Mumbles and shows in Cardiff (*Miss Saigon* and *Beautiful*).

Views of the members were sought on changing the starting time of the monthly meetings. Final decisions to be made at a later date.

Next month's meeting will be on February 20 when the speaker will be Gayney Jones on 'Sewing changed my life', at the usual time of 7:30pm.

SHEILA DAVID

Could you be a 'FAN' of Friends and Neighbours

FRIENDS and Neighbours (FAN) is a local charity that brings people of all ages together in the spirit of friendship.

A spokeswoman said: "If you enjoy meeting others, or are feeling a little lonely, you will be sure of finding a warm welcome.

"FAN groups create a sense of community and are a wonderful network. It's a great opportunity for local people to meet newcomers."

She continued: "Our groups meet weekly, and details are on www.thefancharity.org. There is a new group in Barry on Wednesdays, 11.30am, First Floor Barry Library, King Square, CF63 4RW. There is no charge. In Bridgend, Mondays, 11.45am, a group meets at the Zone Community Café, 46-48 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JB."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Porthcawl Farmers' Market

THE next Farmers' Market will be at the Griffin Park Community Hall in New Road, Porthcawl on Saturday, January 28 from 9.30am – 12.30pm.

Local producers will be there, with ready meals, local produce and speciality cards. The market cafe will also be open.

Space is still available for local producers, and enquiries should be addressed to the market coordinator on 01656 658963.

KPC Youth project

A SOCIAL activities and friendship project for children and young people in foster care living in Bridgend county takes place at KPC Youth and Community Centre, off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle.

A number of sessions are being run over a number of weeks.

For more information, call 01656 749219/745399 or see www.kpc youth.com for further details.

Before Sainbury's store moved in to Park Crescent, Barry, a petition was organised because local residents were concerned about how busy the traffic was by the roundabout and at the top of Park Crescent opposite Romilly Primary School.

Is there a local road safety issue you would like to highlight?

Traffic on Gladstone Road outside the primary school. Safety outside local schools when youngsters are dropped off or picked up is a paramount concern for parents and teachers.

In Barry the junction at Trinity Street onto Jenner Road is extended to give motorists joining the main road a better view of the moving traffic. There are double yellow lines around the corners to ensure cars don't cut down drivers' field of vision.

THE latest available figures for national road deaths shows a reduction in fatalities – but the Department for Transport points out that discernible trends can only be judged over a number of years because there are so many factors at play.

One of the main topics of concern flagged up by residents in the Vale to The GEM is road safety.

Nationally there were 1,732 reported road deaths in 2015, a decrease of two per cent compared with 2014. This is the second lowest annual total on record after 2013.

There were 45 per cent fewer fatalities in 2015 than a decade earlier in 2006. There was a total of 186,209 casualties of all severities in 2015, around four per cent lower than in 2014 and the second lowest level on record.

Vehicle traffic levels increased by 1.6 per cent between 2014 and 2015.

Do you think more could be done to prevent accidents? Perhaps you favour a lower speed limit somewhere. Should there be more 20 mph speed limits in towns? Is there a location on the road network that particularly concerns you? There may be an area that you think has been improved in terms of safety. Please send in your views to ***editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk***.

SCHOOL SHOW OPENS IN THE PAVILION THIS WEEK!

ABOVE: Cast members with Audrey 2 (centre), the man-eating plant. Photograph by Malcolm Nugent.

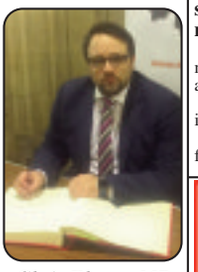
PORTHCAWL Comprehensive's school show, Little Shop of Horrors, opened last night (Wednesday).

The black comedy musical features, of course, a man-eating plant, a nerdy hero, a sadistic dentist, and a chorus of Tamla Motown girl groups.

GEM photographer Malcolm Nugent dropped into the dress rehearsal to take these photos.

The show runs at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl for four days, January 25-28.

MP signs Holocaust Educational Trust Book



Chris Elmore MP signing the Book of Commitment.

FRIDAY, January 27 marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, the site of the largest mass murder in history.

In the lead up to and on Holocaust Memorial Day, thousands of commemorative events will be arranged by schools, faith groups and community organisations across the country, remembering all the victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides. The theme for this year's commemorations is 'How can life go on?'

Labour MP for Ogmore, Chris Elmore, was one of those signing the Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Book of Commitment'. He commented: "Holocaust Memorial Day is an important opportunity for people from across the country to reflect on the tragic events of the Holocaust.

"As the Holocaust moves from living history, to just history, it becomes ever more important that we take the time to remember the victims and also pay tribute to the survivors."

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MP visits 'circular energy cluster' at Parc Stormy

From left: Reuben Hamon, Madeleine Moon MP, and Jess King.

BRIDGEND Labour MP, Madeleine Moon, visited Cenin Renewables recently for a tour of its 'circular energy cluster', the first of its type in Wales at Parc Stormy just outside Bridgend.

The site at Stormy Down was originally a World War Two RAF airfield and the MP met Reuben Hamon, visual designer/planning coordinator and Jess King, renewables project assessor.

Parc Stormy has been redeveloped from a brownfield site into a integrated cluster of renewable technologies.

The tour began at SOLCER House, a 'zero carbon' three-bedroom house designed by Cardiff University School of Architecture.

The house's energy systems combine solar generation and battery storage to power both its combined heating, ventilation, hot water system and its electrical power systems, which include appliances, LED lighting and heat pump.

It has a glazed solar photovoltaic panel roof and high levels of thermal insulation and was built in 16 weeks.

Mrs Moon said: "It was a fascinating start to the visit at SOLCER house, to see what our houses in the future may be like.

"In 2011 a solar farm was installed and in 2015 a wind turbine both for power and for supplying energy to homes. There is also a proposal for a battery storage project to store excess electricity to pass to the grid."

Clwb Rotari Pen-y-bont yn cefnogi Eisteddfod yr Urdd

Sian Stephen, Wayne Morgan (vice president) and Elin Mannion.

YN ddiweddar cyflwynodd Clwb Rotari Pen-y-bont siec am £5,887.44 i gronfa apêl Eisteddfod yr Urdd Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, Taf ac Elái yn dilyn cinio a gynhaliwyd nôl ym mis Medi 2016.

Yn derbyn y siec ar ran Eisteddfod yr Urdd roedd Elin Mannion, cadeirydd Pwyllgor Apêl Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a Sian Stephen, rheolwr nawdd yr Urdd.

Mae Pwyllgor Apêl Tref Pen-y-Bont bellach wedi cyrraedd bron i 75% o'u targed a nifer o ddigwyddiadau ar y gweill dros y misoedd olaf o godi arian.

Yn ôl Aled Sion, cyfarwyddwr Eisteddfod yr Urdd: "Rydym wir yn gwerthfawrogi y gwaith sydd yn cael ei wneud yn lleol gan dîm gweddol fychan ond diwyd iawn. Mae faint o arian sydd eisoes wedi ei godi yn galonogol iawn ac edrychwn ymlaen i gynnal ein gŵyl deithiol ar gampws Pencoed, Coleg Pen-y-bont Mai 29 – Mehefin 3 eleni."

Rotary Club of Bridgend supports Urdd Eisteddfod

RECENTLY, the Rotary Club of Bridgend presented a cheque for £5,887.44 to the Urdd Eisteddfod following a luncheon held in September 2016.

The cheque was presented to Elin Mannion, chair of the Bridgend Appeal committee and Sian Stephen, Urdd development manager.

The Bridgend Appeal committee have now reached 75 per cent of their target with a number of events organised for the last few months of fundraising.

Aled Sion, director of the Urdd Eisteddfod, said: "We really appreciate the work that has been done locally by a relatively small but busy group of people. The amount of money that has already been raised is great and we look forward to bringing our unique festival to Bridgend College Pencoed campus May 29 – June 3 this year."

RNLI searching for volunteers

PORTHCAWL RNLI has volunteering opportunities for crew, shore crew, tractor drivers, shop staff, 'station visit' volunteers and fundraisers.

Requirements for lifeboat crew and other volunteers differ, although dedication, commitment and teamwork are essential for all roles.

Contact Philip Missen, Lifeboat Operations Manager at the station, call 01656 783299 (Wednesday evening 7.30pm-9.30pm or Sunday morning, 10am-12.30pm) or leave a message on the answerphone; through the website, www.porthcawl-lifeboat.co.uk or via the social media pages, https://www.facebook.com/porthcawlrnli.

You can call in to the station on Sunday mornings from 10am to midday.

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Local woman in battle for fair pensions

by TIM CHAPMAN

A Vale woman is a key member of a campaign aimed at making sure women are treated fairly in receiving state pensions.

Kay Clarke (61) from Barry is one of the regional administrators of the WASPI action group – 'Women Against State Pension Inequality'.

Members are campaigning against what they argue are unfair changes to the state pension age for women born on or after April 6, 1951.

Kay told The GEM: "We have been attempting to persuade the government to consider transitional arrangements for the women born in the 1950s who have been very badly affected by the changes.

"We ladies of a certain age have been badly hit by the lack of fair transitional arrangements for the receipt of our pension.

"My own circumstances reflect that of many women who were expecting to receive a pension at the age of 60.

"When we started our working lives there was no equal pay, no pre-school nurseries, no tax credits, no help with childcare, other than willing family members, and most women gave up work to have their children.

Jane Hutt met WASPI campaigners Kay Clarke (second right) Celia Jones and Sue Jarman at the Senedd recently.

"I gave up the highest salary and took on work to fit around my husband's working day to make ends meet.

"I continued to do this for many years. At one point I had three jobs, all of which were low paid but fitted in with family life.

"I was not given the luxury of a company pension because most of my employers offered a zero hours contract even though I continued to pay my tax and national insurance in the knowledge that it was contributing towards a pension which I had always been given to believe would be returned to me at the age of 60."

SIX MORE YEARS

But now Kay is having to wait a further six years until she gets her pension and feels. cheated by the system.

"I was given just three years notice in 2012 of the changes to my pension age. This was three months after I was finally able to set up a company pension, but unfortunately also three months before I was made redundant from a post I had held for 13 years."

Kay, who has been unable to find a suitable job, is upset that the 'pension goalposts' have been moved so late.

"I will have been denied £46,800 in pension payments by the time I reach 66 and feel very strongly that fair transitional arrangements should be in place to help us in our plight."

Many women still don't realise that they will have to wait longer for their state pension. Kay was recently talking to a woman on the checkouts at Barry Asda who did not realise what was happening.

Kay's mother, grandmother and great-grandmother all died before 60 years of age, and were denied the benefits of paying into the system – now she thinks the same is happening to her!

In recent months, she and other campaigners have met local AM Jane Hutt, the Vale's MP, Alun Cairns, and taken the campaign to the Senedd and the Houses of Parliament.

On the day of the Budget, March 8, Kay will join other women in another protest at the Houses of Parliament.

"We're organising a coach to go up and I will be dressing as a suffragette. Last time we went were very ladylike, but this time we will have our saucepans, ladles and whistles!"

Jane Hutt has met WASPI campaigners, including Kay, and said: "I was delighted to invite Kay Clarke from Barry with WASPI campaigners to meet with me at the Senedd. The WASPI campaigners have been to Westminster to put their case and have support from across Wales and the UK."

Among WASPI's proposals are a 'bridging' pension to provide an income for women from the age of 60 until the new state pension age. They believe any arrangement should not be means-tested and should include compensation for losses for those women who have already reached their state pension age.

For women interested in the campaign, more is available at: www.waspi.co.uk.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF
SIROL PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR

I give notice that the following applications have been made. The application documents can be viewed during normal office hours at the Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB or on the planning page of the Council website. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications on land use planning grounds should write to the Council at the above address by the date specified under each category of application or submit their comments online. Observations received on applications are not acknowledged. Any representations submitted will be open to public inspection and objectors/supporters may be identified on the internet. The Development Control Committee operates public speaking arrangements. If you wish to register an intent to speak at Committee (should the application not be processed under delegated powers) please indicate in your response. For more information tel: 01656 643115.

Yr wyf yn hysbysu bod y ceisiadau canlynol wedi cael eu gwneud. Bydd llwythi gyfer ar ddogfennau'r ceisiadau yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol yn y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr CF31 4WB neu ar y dudalen gynllunio ar wefan y Cyngor. Dylai unrhyw un sy'n dymuno cyflwyno sylwadau ar y ceisiadau hyn ar sail cynllunio'r defnyddir o dir ysgrifennu at y Cyngor at y cyfeiriad uchod erbyn y Dyddiad a nodir dan bob categori ceisiadau neu cyflwyno'r sylwadau ar-lein. Ni ellir ond cydnabyddiaeth yn dilyn derbyn sylwadau ar gyfeiriadau. Bydd unrhyw sylwadau a gyflwyno'r ar gael i'r cyhoedd ei hatchwilio ac mae'n bosib hydd enwau gwrthwynebwyr/cefnogwyr ar gael ar y Rhyngrwyd. Mae'r Pwyllgor Rheoli Datblygu'n gweithredu trefniadau i siarad cyhoeddus y cyhoedd gael siarad. Os ydych yn dymuno nodi bwriad i siarad yn y Pwyllgor (os na fydd y cais yn cael ei broses dan bwerau wedi'u dirprwyo), nodwch hyfny yn eich ymateb. I gael mwy o wybodaeth ffonwch rif ffôn 01656 643115.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

P/16/960/FUL Proposed kennels & cattery & temporary dwelling—Ty Rhos Farm Penycae Penyfai by Mr & Mrs D Hopkins

RESPOND BY: 08/02/2017

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990 CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT

P/16/1003/FUL Renovation and remodelling of public house & associated outbuildings, the demolition of detached & attached structures & building of a new extension to contain public bar/restaurant facilities, kitchen, cellar, related ancillary accommodation & 4 guest apartments—The Old House Llangynwyd Village Llangynwyd by J & S Jones

DEVELOPMENT IN CONSERVATION AREAS

P/16/1027/LIS To alter/extend new rear extension to St John's House as previously consented. (P/15/697/FUL). Modification to rear kitchen area to omit new disabled toilet— St John's House Newcastle Hill Bridgend by St John's House Trust

SECTION 67 DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING THE SETTING OF A LISTED BUILDING

P/16/1003/FUL Please see P/16/1003/FUL above

P/16/1021/FUL Please see P/16/1027/LIS

RESPOND BY: 15/02/2017

Mark Shephard Corporate Director Communities / Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Cymunedau 26-01-2017

COMPREHENSIVE AWARDED FOYLE FOUNDATION GRANT

Pencoed Comprehensive School's library will benefit from the funding.

FOLLOWING submission of an application before the summer holidays, the school was successful in being awarded a grant of £5,000 from the Foyle Foundation.

The Foyle Foundation was formed to implement the terms of the will of the late Christina Foyle. She was the daughter of William Foyle who, with his brother, founded the family-owned bookshop Foyles in Charing Cross Road, London, which she continued to manage after her father's death.

The foundation is the only charitable organisation in the UK offering funding specifically to school libraries, through the Foyle School Libraries Programme.

We plan to divide the grant, spending on responding to pupils' requests to increase the range of books available from the library.

The remainder will be spent on providing an enhanced and improved learning environment for pupils. Naturally, pupils' feedback and input will be invaluable to this project, and we look forward to working with them to make Pencoed Comprehensive School library one of the best in Wales! Thanks to our librarian Miss M Rule for applying for the grant.

AP

Why a Dogs Trust manager will spend 48 hours in a kennel!

DOGS TRUST Bridgend's assistant manager is taking a lead, by spending 48 hours in a dog kennel to help raise money for the charity.

Rebecca Baker will spend from February 1 – 3 in a kennel at the rehoming centre in Pen-y-Fai.

She will live like a homeless hound for two whole days, keeping herself occupied in her kennels as well as getting the same walks the dogs do. In the bid to raise as much money as possible she is hoping that local people will come down and support her.

Rebecca said: "I was so shocked to hear that over the Christmas period there was a 57 per cent increase in dogs being handed over to Dogs Trust centres across the UK. I really wanted to do something different to increase awareness and raise money for the homeless hounds that we care for, so I decided to put myself in the dogs' shoes and live like them for 48 hours.

"I will be among the dogs that are available for rehoming, so I really hope local people will come down and support me while I raise pounds for our hounds during the lock-in! Any donations of sweet treats will be gratefully received!"

Rebecca hasn't set a fundraising target but is hoping to raise as much as possible for the pooches under the care of Dogs Trust while they wait for their permanent home.

To support Rebecca's 48 hour kennel challenge, visit the Rehoming Centre at Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG or JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/48hoursinkennels.

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FOLK BANDS GEARED UP FOR PORTHCAWL FESTIVAL

Jamie Smith's Mabon.

CELTIC folk bands Calan and Jamie Smith's Mabon are announced to headline Wales' Inter-Celtic Festival in Porthcawl this year.

Bands Calan and Jamie Smith's Mabon will join other artists to perform at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion on March 10-12 in the annual festival that celebrates music and dance from the Celtic nations.

For a whole weekend, visitors will be able to enjoy performances, workshops, street dancing as well as watch the Wales vs. Ireland Six Nations rugby match live on a big screen – all for £25.

Young Welsh folk band, Calan, have made a name for themselves in the British folk scene as well as abroad. They will begin their international tour promoting their new album *Solomon* soon.

Tickets for the evening concerts as well as weekend tickets are available on the Grand Pavilion's website.

'Make views known about flooding defences' locals urged

WELSH Conservative are urging householders in Newton to make their views known in a consultation currently under way on flood defences.

Council officers and representatives of the consultants carrying out the review were present to speak to local residents at a community event.

Suzy Davies, AM for South Wales West, and Coun Ken Watts have been active in supporting residents left "dismayed" by the shoreline management plan published by the Welsh Government, which stated that the flood defences installed in Newton to prevent coastal flooding should not be maintained after 25 years.

Mrs Davies said: "Ken and I both visited a number of residents at Beach Road which is literally in the front line if there is a tidal surge. The wall that was put up in the 1990s by the old Environment Agency is a crucial part of flood defences and further work was also carried out more recently to break up waves and reduce the strength of the tides.

"But these will be no good at all if they are allowed to fall into disrepair."

Coun Watts said that many householders were worried about what would happen to the value of their properties if this decision was confirmed.

He said: "There are fears that building societies and banks will refuse to give mortgages on houses in Newton, which would make them unsaleable. Similarly, insurance companies may decline to offer cover. There are very serious implications which is why Suzy and I lobbied BCBC and Welsh Government very hard on this.

"I am pleased that the council has now been given funding by the Welsh Government to employ consultants to look at all the options again. I urge everyone to make their views crystal clear – we want the existing flood defences maintained in perpetuity."

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Aberkenfig and District WI

EUNICE Williams, the president, welcomed the members to the first meeting of the year on January 11; the members voted on the Resolutions, as is usual for the first meeting of the year.

Sheilagh Gunston gave a report on her trip to Brighton for the NFWI annual meeting, it sounds like she thoroughly enjoyed her time there and everyone enjoyed listening to her.

The next meeting will be on February 8 when the speaker will be Sylvia Tittley from Denman College, who will be telling the members how the appeal for the upgrade of the college is getting on.

Aberkenfig and District WI meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig.

New members and visitors are always made most welcome. There is also a chance to make new friends or get reacquainted with old ones over a cup of tea, there is usually a speaker or event at each meeting.

For more information call Dilys on 01656 725399 or visit www.cobwebs.com or www.facebook.com/Aberkenfigwomensinstitute.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Cefn Cribwr Community Centre (The green hut)

KENFIG Hill and District Male Choir (with guest artists) is performing in its annual concert on Saturday, January 28 at 7pm. Tickets are £5 and are available from Mandy Baldwin on 07917 097975 or *lilacpage@sky.com;* or pay on the door.

Twmpath Dawns

A TRADITIONAL 'Twmpath Dawns' and a sing-song will be held on Friday, January 27 at Cefn Athletic Club to raise funds for the Eisteddfod Urdd 2017.

Non-Welsh speakers, Welsh learners and speakers are all very welcome.

The fun starts at 7pm; admission is £3 and you pay on the door.

Maesteg Male Voice Choir

THE choir's 42nd annual concert will be held at the Town Hall in Maesteg on Saturday, February 4.

The concert will commence at 7pm.

The soprano for the evening will be Angharad Lisbeth Rees who hails from Pontrydyfen and appeared with the choir in 2013, giving a very accomplished performance.

The bass will be Huw Euron from Cardiff who is also a member of Only Men Aloud and the concert will be compered by BBC newsreader Rebecca John.

This will be the 17th annual concert in which musical director Rhian Jenkins has led the choir and on this occasion, new accompanist Laura Deenik will be making her debut.

Tickets available from choristers for £8.

Children's gardening club

CHILDREN can get ready for spring with the gardening club on Thursday, January 26 at Pyle Library from 4pm – 5pm.

Mynydd Cynffig WI

TUESDAY, January 10 found the members in the Talbot Centre, Kenfig Hill at 2.30pm for the first meeting in 2017 with a good turnout, and a visitor with the hope that she will become a member. Marjorie Goode and Enid Rymer, the president and secretary, explained items in Women's Institute business to the members.

This year is the branch's 67th anniversary and it is celebrating with a lunch in the Grove, Porthcawl. The branch walking group is now organised and so is the craft group; the Scrabble group is, as always, well supported.

The branch had a lot of important items to discuss this month so passed a resolution to start the next meeting at 2pm, which gives a half an hour extra.

The talk this month was from Norah Clarke on the Guide Dogs for the Blind: we were amazed at the amount of money needed for each dog.

Next month Sarah and team will be telling us about Trading Standards.

So don't forget – next month we will be starting at 2pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

Tondu Primary School

HELPING Hands is held every Tuesday from 9:30am to 10:30am at the Heol Persondy infants' section.

This is an informal group meeting and an ideal opportunity for new parents, relatives and carers to get to know other parents while helping to prepare resources for the children. If you or your family would like to join Helping Hands in Heol Persondy, the school would appreciate the support.

Tondu Toddlers takes place each Wednesday from 9.30am to 10.30am at the Heol Persondy infants' section.

All carers with children under three are welcome. They can enjoy meeting other carers, while the children will get used to playing with others in the same age group.

Bridgend Bridge latest

THE results for recent events at Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

Wednesday, January 18: First, Liam Sheridan and John Beard; second: David Crompton and David Bowen; third, Graham Jones and Irene Thomas.

The winners on handicap were Liam Sheridan and John Beard.

Thursday, January 19: North/south: first, Geoff and Christine Tinkler; second, David Newman and Stuart Davies; third, Colin Lewis and Ann Fox.

The winners on handicap were David Newman and Stuart Davies.

East/west: first, Dilys Bowser and V Irene Thomas; second, Frances Heslin and Dee Finch; third joint, Teresa Griffiths and Leila O'Hagan; Marjorie Halley and Sheila Gass.

The winners on handicap were Dilys Bowser and V Irene Thomas.

Friday, January 20: First, John Evans and Steve Burgoyne; second,Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; third, Norma and David Newman.

The winners on handicap were John Evans and Steve Burgoyne.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to begin at 7pm, so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle bridge session. Master points are awarded, but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their Bridge. **TG**

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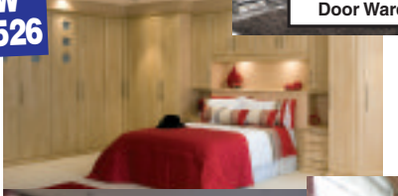
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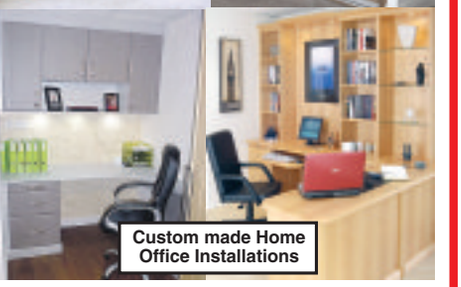
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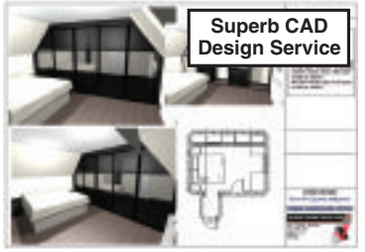
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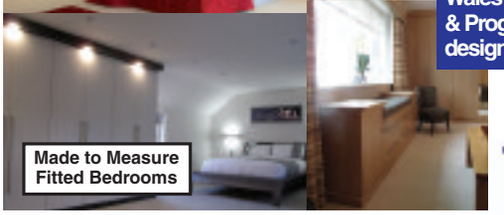
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Mysterious Vale of Glamorgan

DID you know that the largest capstone in Britain is situated in a field at Tinkinswood, near St Nicholas, and that this impressive burial chamber dates to around 3500 BC and was in use until 2000BC?

Did you know that Kenfig Pool, a national nature reserve of some 70 acres, is the second largest freshwater lake in south Wales after Llangorse? A legend is connected with Kenfig, which is situated in the sand dunes.

In ancient times, a local chieftain wronged and wounded a prince who, with his dying breath, pronounced a curse on his foe.

Just one of the tales in Chris Barber's fascinating *Mysterious Wales* (published by Amberley Books at £14.99) a land haunted by its own past, with a treasure trove of beautiful and magical places – some rarely visited.

This book guides explorers to prehistoric megaliths, remote stone circles, burial chambers, secret caves, lonely lakes and 'bottomless' pools, and some of these magical places can be found in the Vale; such as the Cross of St Illtyd, erected to commemorate two holy men at St Illtyd's Church in Llantwit Major and the Cross of Irbic, at Llandough.

With chapters on wizards, witches, fairies, saints and sanctuaries and much more, this well-illustrated book is a jolly good read.

For children: *The Crystal Fountain* by David Morgan Williams and illustrated by Laura Jenkins, published by yLolfa at £5.99. It is the story of Capra, an ibex who lives in the mountains of Ethiopia, and her friends Omo and Asha, and is a delight.

BRIAN LEE

BALLET PHOTO RETRACES THOSE CHILDHOOD STEPS

THE article and photograph of young ballet dancers on page 11 of last week's GEM awakened memories of the summer of 1980, writes ANDY JOHNSTONE.

Moya Vahey, founder of the School of Russian Classical Ballet in Cowbridge, supplied The GEM with a black-and-white printed photograph of a group of girls waiting to sit their Federation of Russian Classical Ballet examination.

Fiona Breen identified herself in the photo, and since then, the parents of another young dancer, Ellen Owen (née Winnard) made contact with the paper.

Ellen, then aged five, is on the far right of the photograph. Her parents, Sian and Geoff – who still live in the area – explained what had happened to the budding ballerina since 1980.

"She didn't keep dancing up," began her father, once a teacher at Y Bont Faen School, "but remembers the classes and Miss Vahey very well."

Although Ellen did not keep up her dancing, she has been a teacher for some years.

Now living in Crickhowell, the mother of three boys – none of whom, report Sian and Geoff, are aspiring Billy Elliots – teaches Welsh in the Modern Languages Faculty of Christ College, Brecon.

Her mother said: "We were so pleased to learn that Moya was still teaching in Cowbridge.

"Ballet is a wonderful thing for children to learn."

The photograph also prompted Justine Bettley (née Davies) to contact The GEM.

Justine (back row, top right) wrote: "I still live in the Vale, in Llancarfan, having moved back to the area in 2005 after 20 years away.

"My younger sister was Corinne Davies (first full row, fourth from the left with a short bob), and she now lives in Edinburgh. We were aged seven and five in July 1980."

Justine added: "We attended Y Bont Faen, and also went to ballet school from 1980 to 1984 in Cowbridge and in Llanblethian village hall, before moving to Scotland."

Justine also spotted classmate Hannah Jones, to the right of her sister, in the photograph.

"The highlight of attending the Moya Vahey School of Russian Ballet," said Justine, "was the annual show put on in Cowbridge Town Hall."

If you recognise any of the pupils in the photo, please send your reminiscences to editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk.

To read the earlier article online, visit: http://bit.ly/MoyaVahey

'Annie's legacy' remembered at Welsh Assembly

'CANCER Patients' Voices Wales' recently held its second event in the National Assembly for Wales, as it continue its work to make sure cancer diagnosis, treatment, support and survival is the best it can be for patients in Wales.

It was sponsored by South Wales Central AM and Leader of the Welsh Conservatives Andrew RT Davies, who opened proceedings before a cross-party panel discussion took place.

"Last year's event was organised by cancer sufferer Annie Mulholland, who sadly passed away in May," Mr Davies said.

"Annie was a dedicated campaigner for better access to cancer drugs in Wales, after discovering she needed to move to London to have access to life-prolonging treatments."

Mr Davies described the campaign as 'Annie's legacy', and said that her memory would always be with all of those present. Her husband Martin and daughter Rebecca attended the event, and Rebecca gave her personal perspective.

Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-Being and Sport, Vaughan Gething, also spoke on behalf of the Welsh Government.

Mr Davies said: "Annie Mulholland was a truly inspirational individual who despite her own personal illness, worked incredibly hard to improve access to life prolonging treatments for cancer sufferers in Wales.

"She made sure cancer patients' voices are heard in Wales, and the campaign will continue to honour her legacy. It was pleasing to see politicians of all colours and persuasions attend and take part as we work together to beat cancer."

LIFT *(Life Is For Today)*

The LIFT group offers friendship and support to those affected by breast cancer.

It meets in Cowbridge once a fortnight, between 10am and 1pm, for relaxation therapies and from 2pm to 4pm for other activities, such as speakers or trips.

"Come and join us – bring a friend, for friendly, supportive, and confidential get-togethers."

For more information, call Anne on 01446 772843, or Judith on 01446 794176."

ENFYS CRAFT FAIR

THE first Enfys craft fair of 2017 will take place on Saturday, February 4 at the St Ffransis Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry between 10am and 4pm; free admission.

Last month's charity raffle raised £70 for Nell's Point coastal Watch. Unfortunately Cyril, who is in charge of the raffle, is too poorly at present to continue.

For more information, contact Reg on 01446 792149 or Patricia on 01656 880784.

Menter Bro

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Do you like your sports and want to learn and use Welsh?

A GREAT resource has become available from the Welsh Language Commissioner: Welsh: give it a go! Using the Welsh language in sport.

A practical pack is available for sports clubs and associations on how to develop a bilingual, Welsh and English approach to sports activities in Wales.

The pack is based on research and feedback from sports bodies across Wales.

To view an interactive version of the pack, view this link: www.comisiynyddygymraeg.cymru/hybu/cy/canllawiau/Pages/amdani%21.aspx.

Take a look at the videos that are part of the pack and you can download posters and flashcards.

If you'd like a print version through the post, contact: hybu@welshlanguagecommissioner.wales.

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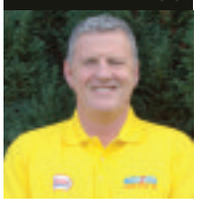

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Volunteering fair a BIG success!

OVER 300 people were welcomed at the Memo Art Centre in Barry on January 18 and were welcomed by 56 volunteering providers looking to recruit more volunteers.

Attendees were spoilt for choice at Glamorgan Voluntary Services' (GVS) BIG volunteering fair, which showcased opportunities available in the community.

Kath Fisher of Noah's Ark Children's Hospice charity said: "We were delighted to be invited to the BIG volunteering fair by GVS and had a fantastic day seeing well over 40 individuals with a 25 per cent sign-up.

"It was well worth us coming today"

If you are considering volunteering, or your community organisation would benefit from GVS' free volunteer recruitment services, contact GVS on 01446 741706, E-mail: enquiries@gvs.wales; website:

MS

FocusBarry AGM

DEPUTY Inspector Bryn Glennie's visit to the FocusBARRY meeting last week provided clarity to the subject of domestic abuse and outlined the associated White Ribbon Campaign.

He explained that vulnerable women are almost always the target of abusive men and that of the 30,000 incidents reported annually to the police in south Wales, 2,500 occurred in the Vale. He produced figures relating to victims and perpetrators in Barry as well as answering supporters' questions on policing in the town.

It is hoped that improvements in procedures and a more sensitive and enlightened understanding by the police and supporting agencies will encourage more victims of domestic abuse to come forward.

DI Glennie's presentation was well received by a smaller than usual meeting of the group. **DH**

A guided tour of Westminster...

Welsh Secretary **ALUN CAIRNS** reports to GEM readers

In my role as the Member of Parliament for the Vale I have had the privilege of welcoming many local people and community groups to Westminster and providing tours of the Houses of Parliament.

Over the past couple of years, I have been organising 'coach tours' from the Vale to Parliament to give as many constituents as possible the opportunity to come.

The next such departure takes place on Friday next week (February 4) and there are still spaces available.

The Palace of Westminster is truly fascinating, and visitors from the Vale will be provided a guided tour of all its important parts including the Houses of Commons and House of Lords debating chambers.

Following the tour, I will hold a question-and-answer session in the grand committee room about how Parliament works and my experiences on the green benches.

Due to the need for renovation and restoration, the parliamentary estate is likely to close in the near future with MPs sitting in a temporary chamber elsewhere for at least six years.

The trips I am organising from the Vale represent one of the last opportunities to visit buildings at the heart of history before this closure.

It is difficult to describe the sense of history in the Palace, and impossible to overstate Parliament's significance in our island story.

Indeed, following our departure from the European Union, Parliament will play an even bigger role in determining the future of the nation. The chance to see it as a living, working and venerable institution in its traditional home is one that should be taken.

The tour taking place next Friday is departing from Cowbridge at 9am and is open to all residents of the Vale.

Upon arrival visitors will have the chance to explore the 1,000-year-old Westminster Hall and use its Jubilee café prior to the full tour with an experienced guide.

Seeing the famous green benches for the first time, the magnificent Royal Gallery and the ornate thrones in the House of Lords is an experience not easily forgotten.

So please do not hesitate to call my constituency office to book your place on the tour on 01446 403814. Alternatively, email me on *alun.cairns.mp@parliament.uk*.

If you have any friends or family who might be interested in coming please do let them know.

I look forward to seeing you in Westminster very soon.

Out & About with The GEM

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PORTHCAWL BAND'S SECOND CD CONFIRMS THEIR PROMISE

Review by PHILIP IRWIN

PORTHCAWL band One Time Alive have just released their second CD, entitled *Five Star Vending Machine*, following on from their very strong debut album, *Sugar Train*.

They talk about difficult second albums, but that doesn't seem to apply here. It hasn't taken long and it's a CD that has legs – songs still sound fresh after the third or fourth listen – always a good sign.

However, as for me the strength of *Sugar Train* was the sheer versatility of this three piece – Ed Rees (bass), Jack Parry (lead and rhythm guitars) and Sarah Griffiths (percussion) – the first four tracks on the new CD set off some alarm bells.

They all share a similar feel, with Jack Parry's guitar having an edgy, rough sound, and with Ed Rees and Sarah Griffiths driving things on with real aggression, it seemed that they were chasing a high energy live sound, rather than developing their eclecticism.

Nothing wrong with any of those opening four tracks, but they were a touch similar. 'Sister Soul' is the opener, and it's a bassist's show off track with Ed taking the vocal as well.

Tracks two and three rattle along in similar vein and, although track four, 'Fathoms', starts slow. you know it's just building up, 'Teen Spirit' style, to the crashing chords and the big finish.

However, from track five on, called 'Round About Way', the band from the first album reasserts itself. This one's an acoustic number, with Ed's vocals and his trademark

lyrics – he has an ear for a phrase that jumps out at you.

Up next is 'All Things' – with an intro rather like Joe Jackson's 'Different For Girls' – that carries on with a moody feel, before a big finish.

Track seven is a bouncy little number where the band share the vocals, and track eight, 'Baby' is my favourite – an out and out blues, with Jack Parry really showing off his guitar expertise. Jack could probably insist on a guitar solo in every song, but you get the feeling that One Time Alive are a real band, and all the better for it.

The final track, 'The Parade' has Sarah singing lead vocals, and that's another string to the band's versatility bow.

I skimmed through the album for a friend while giving him a lift. He knows his indie music and said it was hard to believe it was the same band, playing such different songs.

It's good to see a Porthcawl band making original music and getting it out there on CD and via iTunes. The CD is available from SUSSED in Porthcawl (just up from the Bandstand, James Street CF36 3BG). For more on the band, go to *http://www.onetimealive.com/*

Black Jam Circus launch new album

A special album launch by Black Jam Circus is taking place on Friday, February 3, on Barry Island, and entry is free.

A spokesman said: "The Black Jam Circus is an original band made up of a group of mysterious brothers.

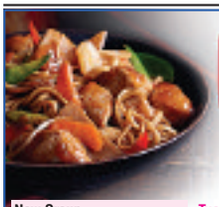
"They have recently released their debut album, which contains 15 original tracks produced by local producer Paul O'Kelly at St Paul Studio.

"Not much is known about the band, but rumour has it that the band is made up of a group of seven brothers who have been working with a travelling circus until now.

"The album is an eclectic mix of pop / rock / reggae / punk and funk and the songs are based on real life experiences.

"The album can be downloaded from *www.blackjamcircus.com* or physical copies of the CD can be purchased from the Chimera Tattoo Emporium on Holton Road, Barry, or at the Barry Music Shop.

"On Friday, February 3, the band will be launching their album at an official launch party at the Barry Island Sports and Social club, doors will open at 7,30pm and the event is free entry."



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Toys and trains

BARRY Toy and Train Sale takes place on Sunday, January 29 at 10.30am to 3pm at Holm View Leisure Centre, Skomer Road, Barry, CF62 9DA.

Please note that this is a new venue for the toy and train sale. There is plenty of free car parking and easy access at this leisure centre, which is just off the main A4050 road approaching the town.

As always, local charity fund-raiser and caterer Rita Limbrick will be operating the cafe within the event.

Telephone 01643 702757 or 07966 694579 or see www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk for further information.

Valeways walk

A GUIDED walk, 'The Long Way Round' takes place on Sunday, January 29 meeting at 2pm outside the visitor centre at Cosmeston.

Hacksaw Ridge is a remarkable tale delivered in hackneyed way...

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

MEL Gibson has been seemingly serving Hollywood penance for years.

Supposedly blacklisted after his various antics, Gibson has sought refuge in the low-key, genre pieces like *How I Spent My Summer Vacation*, *Machete Kills* and *The Expendables 3*, with only last year's *Blood Father* really registering.

However, Gibson has been keen to get back behind the camera, and this week sees the release of his fifth feature film, *Hacksaw Ridge*.

It tells the true story of Desmond Doss (Andrew Garfield), who signs up to join the army in World War Two, despite being unwilling to use a rifle and take another man's life.

Viewed with suspicion, Doss battles his way to serving as a medic in the battle against the Japanese at Hacksaw Ridge – but will he survive the rigours and tortures of war without bearing arms...

The story of Desmond Doss is truly remarkable; maintaining his moral and religious strength (he was a Seventh-day Adventist who would not work Saturdays) while also believing in his duty to his country, Doss's story is most certainly one worthy of being told on the cinema screen.

Yet, however compelling a tale it is, brought to life by Mel Gibson, it is also a strangely unbalanced film, one that takes great pains to set out the debate about war, how belief and duty can go together and the sacrifices made by those to keep us safe, yet also takes great relish in depicting those sacrifices and battles. It's part high-octane action film, part thoughtful piece on the ravages of war on loved ones and friends, yet it never truly feels like the two elements reconcile into a satisfying whole.

To use a sporting cliché it's a film of two halves; the first establishes the character of Doss from an early age (two incidents in particular asserting his desire to not take a life).

We meet his father (a strong turn from Hugo Weaving), a man broken down by the torment of the great war and losing his friends in it, and Doss and his brother's desire to join the army breaks the heart of this once strong man.

After that we shift to training, where the usual war film cliches apply (including a scenery chewing Vince Vaughn as a drill sergeant with a sense of humour) and the emotional centrepiece as Doss battles (literally) to be allowed into combat and save lives, before the conflict itself, and all its brutality and violence writ large.

The battle is where Gibson feels most at home; the formative part of the film runs on cliché, ticking the boxes of biopics as we go, and while beautifully shot, never really engages.

There are some interesting debates in there, both in terms of Doss' relationship with his father and the lengths Doss goes to prove his worth and take his place alongside his squad at Hacksaw Ridge, moral and spiritual arguments that pique the interest, but it feels like Gibson is keeping his powder dry for the final conflict.

And to be fair to the director, when we do reach the battle the direction is breathtaking, the savagery of combat realised in a way nobody has achieved perhaps since Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan*. Running at nearly an hour, it ebbs and flows, pushing the emotional buttons as well as delivering spectacle, particularly come the conclusion as Doss' heroics come to light, highlighting how talented and mesmeric Gibson the director can be.

Andrew Garfield's performance as Doss is strong, his dignity, desire to help and belief in what he deems to be right making him an interesting, if inflexible, character.

The British actor essays the role with a naïve charm, yet with a steely resolve that anchors the film, while the likes of the aforementioned Vaughn and Weaving (whose heartbreaking turn is very good) along with Sam Worthington and Teresa Palmer (as Doss' girlfriend) all offer up something.

It's the curse of the 'based on a true story' film that making something that lives up to the enormity of the story being told is always tricky – *Hacksaw Ridge*, for all of Mel Gibson's balletic and brutal action, doesn't quite manage it.

It's a story that is incredible, yet ultimately its the story, rather than the way its told, that sticks with you.

VERDICT – Mel Gibson's directorial return is a patchy one; for all of *Hacksaw Ridge's* breathtaking and visceral visual magic, the story itself is a beguiling one executed poorly.

The performances are strong, the final hour an incredible display of directorial bravado, but *Hacksaw Ridge* struggles to match the captivating nature of the story being told. Average.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Saving Private Ryan* (1998), *Apocalypto* (2006)

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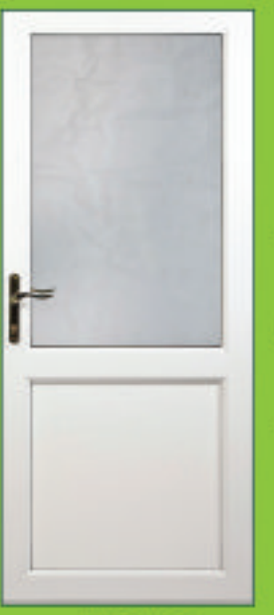

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NEWS OF SULLY WI

THE first meeting of Sully WI in 2017 was held at The Old School on January 4.

President Jean Dowding wished everyone a 'Happy New Year'. Our Christmas party in December had been very enjoyable, with plenty of food, carol singing and a present from Santa!

Our speaker for the evening was Val Shields, with a talk entitled 'Childhood Memories'.

Val gave an amusing and interesting talk about how life had been for ordinary working people in the 1940s and '50s, during her childhood and adolescence.

Covering pregnancy, childbirth and childrearing, with mother running the home and father out at work to earn the money, her memories struck a chord with many of us who had grown up with similar experiences.

We recalled our enjoyment of the freedom to play outdoors; racing homemade trolleys with no sense of danger; climbing trees; girls and boys playing football, cricket and cowboys and Indians together.

However, one thing that no-one enjoyed were the knitted swimsuits: fine when dry on the beach, but truly awful when worn in the sea. It had obviously seemed like a good idea to someone at the time! We thoroughly enjoyed our evening of nostalgia.

The ACWW competition: 'a childhood keepsake', was won by Adrienne Jones, with Kathy Jones second and Jean Dowding third. The raffle winner was Adrienne Jones.

The mid-month meeting on January 18 was a social evening and bring and buy sale.

Everyone had a pleasant, sociable evening, with refreshments and a tempting variety of scarves, handbags, jewellery and other items to buy.

Sully WI meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in The Old School, Sully.

New members are always welcome. For more information, telephone Liz on 02920 530887.

JEAN DOWDING

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The First Step to a Better Smile

True romance is not a rosebud, but a camellia

IF your garden is in a mild location in south Wales, then snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils will begin to show their heads in February, but beware: the weather is changeable and can still bring days that are extremely cold with night-time frosts.

Camellia.

Time to give your garden a little bit of love with a quick tidy up and you could also start sowing seeds and planting – weather permitting. Growing your own plants from seeds is one of the most rewarding and economical ways of getting your garden going after the winter months.

For grow-your-own gardeners, February is all about cultivating and preparing seed beds (if the ground isn't frozen) and covering them with clear polythene, cloches or fleece to warm up the soil before sowing.

From mid-February, you can sow tomato and cucumber seeds for growing in greenhouses, and plant out garlic and shallots in light soils.

This is also your last chance to winter prune apples, pears and autumn fruiting raspberries and to plant bare rooted raspberries.

A simple garden solution for February is to make a 'mini woodland glade' in your garden. If you haven't any dappled garden shade you are missing out on some amazing plants.

Plant a couple of small trees, such as weeping willow and twisted hazel, adding lots of leaf mould to the ground to make these woodland natives feel at home. Then plant some hellebores, a couple of pots of dwarf daffodils and some native cyclamen into the ground and fill in the gaps with ferns.

Finish the whole thing off with a covering of bark chippings.

Another woodland plant to consider, that does best when planted in a sheltered or shady position, is the camellia. It's also ideal for the romantics among you looking for a floral gift for your loved one as the fragrant camellia represents desire, passion and perfection.

Camellias are also one of the best garden plants to use for adding a real splash of colour in the dark winter months.

They are a wonderful plant to grow in the garden or a container, and can be grown in a more exposed position if watered carefully, and thrive in a free-draining spot with plenty of humus in the surrounding soil.

Depending on the variety, you can have flowering from November through to April and the range of colours is vast, from light pinks to dark reds and stunning whites with single, double and other flower forms.

February's garden checklist:

Prune large flowering clematis right back to a strong bud.

Divide and replant snowdrops.

If the weather is dry, keep an eye on evergreens in containers and make sure they are watered regularly.

Once winter flowering jasmine has blossomed, cut out dead stems, trim back new shoots and tie back new growth.

For the maximum show of flowers later in the year cut back summer flowering shrubs such as buddleia, lavatera and hardy fuchsia.

Deadhead winter flowering pansies to keep them blooming.

Depending on frosts, prune roses, climbers and hardy evergreens.

SARA MILNE

Jumble sale

1ST Dinas Powys Scout group are holding a jumble sale on Saturday, January 28 at 1.30pm at the Scout hall, Highwalls Road Dinas Powys. Admission 50p.

AM's surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will hold a surgery on Saturday, January 28 from 10am – 11am at the Citizens' Advice Bureau, 119 Broad Street, Barry.

No appointment necessary.

The Ty Hafan families enjoy studio outing

DESCRIBED as 'one of Wales' most successful holiday providers', Leisuretime took a number of families from Ty Hafan to experience the Warner Bros studio tour in London where they were able to step in to the sets and relive *Harry Potter* through the eyes of the filmmakers who brought the books to life.

Leisuretime offered Ty Hafan up to 20 complimentary entrance tickets to the studio and free return coach travel, which was provided by Thomas of Rhondda Coach Company.

George Johnson, director at Leisuretime, said: "We did some really wonderful things with Ty Hafan last year and we're extending our partnership into 2017. To be able to offer the families a fabulous day out on us is a real privilege and it has been the perfect way to start what we hope will be another successful year for Leisuretime and Ty Hafan."

Natalie Whyatt of Ty Hafan said: "At Ty Hafan, we focus on relieving the burden of 24/7 care so that families can spend quality time together.

"Leisuretime has helped us to achieve this by giving these families a magical experience that they will treasure forever. We are so grateful for their support. Thanks also to Thomas of Rhondda Coach Company for providing free transport."

Glyn Thomas of Thomas of Rhondda said: "We were delighted to supply a coach and driver for this fantastic day out and will always do our best to support Leisuretime and Ty Hafan when they do these wonderful activities."

'Care sector cash a sticking plaster that won't plug gap'

A £10 million increase in funding for social care has been described as a "sticking plaster" that won't cover a massive funding gap in Bridgend and the Vale.

The additional money for the sector was announced by Rebecca Evans, AM, the Welsh Government's Minister for Social Services and Public Health.

The announcement was welcomed by Care Forum Wales chairman Mario Kreft, but he warned it was nowhere near enough.

According to the Welsh Government, the new investment will form part of a three-way agreement to be established between the Welsh Government, local government and social care employers to work together to create a more stable social care workforce.

They say the funding will help meet the extra costs associated with the introduction of the national living wage and that it is in addition to the extra £25 million for social care, which was announced in the draft 2017-18 budget in October.

Mr Kreft said: "Any extra funding to a sector in meltdown is to be welcomed but in reality it is a sticking plaster which will fail to plug the massive funding gap.

"Care providers welcome Welsh Government's recognition of the pressures the introduction of the national living wage has placed on the sector.

"We all want to see care workers better rewarded for the vital service they provide and the increasing professionalisation of the workforce as we move towards registration.

"But in two years since October 2015, we will have seen the minimum pay rates of our care workers increase by 12 per cent. We estimate the cost of this to be at least £80 million.

"It will also have a knock on effect across the board because it will be impossible to maintain pay differentials as we would like.

"In the meantime, this extra funding should be ring-fenced so we can ensure local authorities spend it on social care."

Rebecca Evans said: "In Wales, we have prioritised social care as a sector of national strategic importance.

"Tens of thousands of people rely on these vital services every day. We know that the sector is crucial to the effective running of the wider healthcare system, which is why we are supporting the integration of health and social care through our £60m Intermediate Care Fund."

The Minister also announced that the maximum amount people can be charged for homecare and other non-residential care will increase from £60 a week to £70 from April 2017.

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Meet Cocoa and Bruce

(Continued from page 1)

Cocoa the hamster (above) and Bruce the rescue dog. Photograph by Susan Dobbs photography

A fireman's tale from the days of steam

The writer (centre) with two friends in 1955 outside Rewley Road station (not shown), which was dismantled in 2000 as a listed Grade II building and rebuilt as a working museum at Quainton, Buckinghamshire.

THE waters of the Oxford canal lapped gently over the bow of the small hire boat, as the outboard motor purred slowly along, meandering under bridges, and past moored houseboats and barges.

After two hours of blissful cruising, I then returned the boat to its owners.

The year was 1954, I was 16 years old and after a brief time in Barry loco' shed as an engine cleaner, with numerous firing turns, I had applied successfully for a job as a fireman at Oxford loco' shed.

My accommodation was an old, redundant LMS railway station called Rewley Road.

With 12 people bedded down in one large room, all working different shifts, sleep was almost impossible.

After several months, we were moved to the new single room hostel, complete with a 24-hour canteen.

While at Barry loco', the work mainly involved shunting engines in and around the dock areas. Oxford shed was more varied, with main line work on large engines, as well as the local shunting duties.

Keeping up with the latest clothes style, I spent £16 (two weeks' wages) on a Teddy Boy suit, tailor-made to measure complete with a yellow and gold waistcoat!

After two happy years, I was summoned back to Barry loco and finally to Cardiff Canton, where I finished in 1965.

Years later, my father had found good use for my old suit by using it as lagging in the outside toilet; wrapping the coat around the cistern, and the trousers over various pipework as a protection against frost!

A 'fitting end' to a once expensive and cherished top-of-the-range Teddy Boy suit!

Tony Nicholas, Barry. (Former Great Western fireman).

Genocide survivor helps to mark Holocaust Memorial Day

AN orphaned survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide has helped Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) mark Holocaust Memorial Day with a special ceremony commemorating the victims and survivors of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.

In partnership with Bridgend College, the annual event was held in the Sony Theatre to make a public commitment to remember the millions who have been murdered in the Holocaust and the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

This year's Holocaust Memorial Day theme is 'How can life go on?' asking people across the world to think about what happens after genocide and of our own responsibilities in the wake of such a crime.

The special guest was Antoinette Mushimiyimana, a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, where approximately one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were murdered in just 100 days. Antoinette spoke about her experiences during and after the genocide and how she managed to rebuild her life, demonstrating that life can go on.

Sadly, during the genocide, she lost the majority of her family, becoming an orphan at the age of 11.

She witnessed killings and assaults before escaping certain death by hiding for the remainder of the genocide.

Coming face-to-face with the man who killed her own mother, Antoinette decided to forgive him, saying that she needed to do it so she could move forward with her life.

PICTURED (back row): Riaz Hassan, regional community cohesion coordinator; Coun Hywel Williams; Coun Huw David; Coun Ceri Reeves; Chris Elmore MP; Alun Rees, Bridgend College student. Front row: Rabbi Michoel Rose, Cardiff United Synagogue; Coun Hailey Townsend, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Future Generations; Teresa Jenkins, Mayoress; Coun Reg Jenkins, Mayor of Bridgend County Borough; Antoinette Mushimiyimana, Rwandan genocide survivor; Olivia Hopper and Ceri Anne Thomas, Bridgend College students; Dave Lawrence, hate crime officer for South Wales Police; and Coun Phil White.

Antoinette now dedicates her life to raising the awareness of genocide in the UK and is an active advocate of reconciliation and justice – her focus being on creating peaceful environments in every society.

This year, Alun Rees and Ceri Anne Thomas from Bridgend College led the ceremony, while Olivia Hopper read Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel's life story.

As part of the ceremony, the traditional 'Seven Statements of Commitment' were read by 'prominent' members of the community, and Rabbi Michoel Rose from Cardiff United Synagogue provided a Jewish prayer.

In addition, a candle of remembrance was lit by BCBC's Coun Reg Jenkins, and a 20-second silence was held to remember all those lost.

Father Tim McGrath from St Mary's Roman Catholic Church recited *The Creed of a Holocaust Survivor* – a poem written by Alexander Kimel, a Holocaust survivor.

Antoinette Mushimiyimana (second from left) and Bridgend College students.

To close the event, Bridgend College performing arts students, Olivia Hopper and Alun Rees performed *Somewhere* from *West Side Story*.

Guests represented a 'wide cross-section of the community' and included the police, religious and community groups, politicians, schools and college students. For the first time in several years, members of the public were provided with the opportunity to attend the commemorative event.

BCBC's leader, Coun Huw David, said: "Every year we mark Holocaust Memorial Day as a sign of respect and remembrance.

"Holocaust Memorial Day is a powerful reminder of what hatred, discrimination and racism can lead to. It's a reminder that, more than 70 years after the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps, we can still see genocide, the conscious and deliberate effort of one group to eliminate another.

"We were privileged to welcome Antoinette Mushimiyimana as our special guest.

Her life is an inspirational story of survival, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

"Antoinette has used her experiences to educate and create awareness of genocide, striving for peace among communities in every society, and advocating reconciliation.

"Her awe-inspiring talk about her life led to a standing ovation from the audience.

"After such a haunting experience, it is admirable how Antoinette managed to rebuild her life and is now helping and educating others.

"Our annual commemoration provides an opportunity to reflect and learn lessons from the past and to help ensure that these horrendous crimes are never forgotten. As a council, we pledge to continue to promote diversity and equality within Bridgend county borough."

For more information about the Holocaust visit www.hmd.org.uk, or to view videos of Bridgend county borough's HMD event visit YouTube and search 'Bridgend CBC'.

Welsh medium tuition facing 'crisis' – warning

FIGURES showing the number of students completing secondary teacher training through the medium of Welsh has almost halved in three years are "extremely concerning", Darren Millar AM, Welsh Conservative spokesman for education, warned last week.

"Unless the negative trend is reversed, Welsh language schools could face a crisis of declining standards." He urged the Welsh Government to offer more recruitment support to universities.

"The fall in teacher numbers is extremely concerning and unless steps are taken to reverse this trend, Welsh-medium education could face a recruitment crisis which could undermine the attainment and achievement of pupils, and the future of the Welsh language.

"If the Welsh Labour Government is serious about its commitment to Welsh language education then it must offer greater support to Welsh universities in their recruitment of graduates, and explore various incentive schemes which could serve to entice more Welsh speakers into the profession," he added.

Conservative leader welcomes bridge toll cut

THE Leader of the Welsh Conservatives and South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies has welcomed news that the UK Government is set to cut tolls on the Severn Bridge.

Tolls will drop to £3 for cars, vans and small buses when the crossings go into public ownership in 2018, and Mr Davies said this will be invaluable to people in Cardiff and the Vale.

There are also plans for a two-way 'free flowing' system to be introduced, which could lead to motorists paying £1.50 each way.

Mr Davies said: "Whether it is people coming to visit South Wales, or businesses looking to invest here, the current toll levels on the bridges do act as a barrier.

"Cutting the tolls will encourage investment in the local economy, and people in Cardiff and the Vale will see the benefits.

"This is very pleasing news, and a free flowing system, with the potential abolition of the toll plaza, would remove the bottleneck that causes huge delays at present."

VALE of GLAMORGAN
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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL Building Excellence AWARDS 2017

CRITERIA REQUIRED:

- **Compliance with Building Regulations and energy efficiency**
- **Supplying and managing information (giving of notices and information relative to the work)**
- **Speed of fault rectification**
- **Site environment, safety and storage of materials (so as not to be detrimental to their use)**
- **Client/customer satisfaction**
- **Sustainable and technical innovation.**
- **Access for people with special adaptations**
- **Small Domestic, Housing and Commercial projects**

BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS who use the building regulation service of the Vale of Glamorgan Council will be attending the 14th Building Excellence Awards dinner, organised through the Building Control Group of the Council at The Vale Resort Golf Club, Hensol on Friday, January 27.

Nominations for the awards are made by the council's Building Control surveyors, who are responsible for the supervision of the projects as they progress on site, through to the completion of the work.

Victoria Robinson, Operational Manager for Planning and Building Control, says:

"The nominations go to show yet again that there are several excellent examples of high-quality construction projects that have been undertaken within the Vale of Glamorgan. Ensuring that buildings are constructed in accordance with current building regulations, requires a very high standard of workmanship. The builders nominated this year have proven that they can meet this requirement. I hope we continue to build upon the success of last year's awards, with all who take part having the ultimate aim of getting to The National Awards, in London in November this year."

Head of Regeneration and Planning, Marcus Goldsworthy emphasises: "Development of any size impacts upon our surroundings and the day-to-day lives of all of us. Ultimately, it is the builder who has the major responsibility in satisfying, not only the customer needs, but also of meeting the terms of the legislation.

"The Building Awards will provide all those involved with well-deserved recognition for consistently carrying out work of a high standard".

Coun Lis Burnett Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Education adds: "These awards are so important to recognise those builders and developers who are excelling and producing top quality schemes, which can compete on a national level.

"The awards also help those looking to appoint new contractors to focus on those builders and contractors who are considered to be the very best in their field."

COUNCIL'S THANKS

The Vale of Glamorgan Council would also like to thank all the sponsors of this event, without whom it would not be possible to recognise the builders and developers whose quality of work is making a positive difference to the environment of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Sponsors are:-

Nina Estate Agents from Barry, ACD Skip & Recycling from Bridgend, The Vale Resort, Hensol, Ivorfire, Jewsons, and The Glamorgan GEM.

Winners of the Vale of Glamorgan event will go forward to the LABC South Wales 'Building Awards' dinner that will be held at the Vale of Glamorgan Golf & Spa Resort, Hensol, on Friday April 21, 2017.

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VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2017

EXTENSIONS/ALTERATIONS

Address:
CHURCH HOUSE, ST.MARY CHURCH

Agent & Contractor:
Rob Ashman

An existing single-storey detached garage has been altered and extended to a single -storey extension, which houses a swimming pool area and an open lounge area with views looking across the rear garden area. This project was technically challenging for the contractor, due to the complex foundation underpinning work on the existing structure to house the swimming pool, without causing stress to the existing structures which surround the proposed pool area.

The construction team showed an excellent depth of technical knowledge. This resulted in the extension and the existing dwelling coming together seamlessly with an excellent standard of finish throughout.

Regular contact and site meetings between the contractor, architect and Building Control meant a strong working relationship was developed.

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Address:
THE NEST, ST.HILARY

Agent:
Susan Rosser, Cardiff

Contractor:
Akerman Builders

This project involved the mass excavation of the rear embankment to accommodate the rear extension.

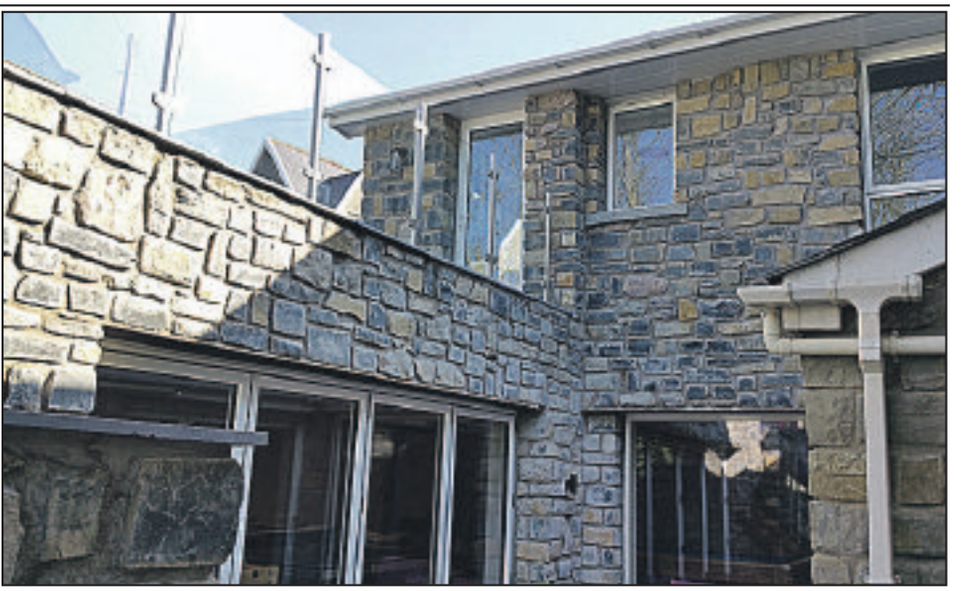
The difficulty was to prevent damp from penetrating through the walls below ground level so a robust tanking method was utilised.

The walls were finished in dressed blue lias stone which was in keeping with the surrounding area. This material was complemented with oak window and door frames.

Inside the finishes were to a high standard with quality hardwood used and glass to give a modern twist. The thermal envelope was insulated beyond the required u-values. The rear first floor room has a vaulted ceiling and egresses onto the slate garden patio at the upper ground level.

From the room below, bi-folding doors lead out to a lower patio level.

The builder worked well with the building control department, keeping the inspectors informed at all stages which lead to few problems during the course of the project, ultimately leading to a very high quality build.



Address:
SOUTHRA FARMHOUSE, DINAS POWYS

Agent/Architect:
Barry Mayled Architect & Garden Design, Penarth

Contractor:
Westgate Building Services

This scheme involved a full refurbishment and remodel of the existing farmhouse with a modern single-storey extension to the side.

The extension provides a large open plan kitchen, dining and living area, which is largely glazed to the south elevation. The large amount of glazing provides outstanding views across the local countryside.

The flat roof provides a balcony area off the existing first floor bedroom, with the remainder being a green roof, which minimises the environmental impact of the building.

The contractor showed an excellent level of competency throughout the construction phase and the project was completed to a very high standard throughout.

Barry Mayled
Architect and Garden Designer
is pleased to be nominated for the Vale of Glamorgan Building Control Awards 2017 in the 'Extension/Alterations' category at Southra Farmhouse, Dinas Powys.
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EXTENSIONS/ALTERATIONS

Address:
TY GWYN, DINAS POWYS

Agent:
Meridian Building Design, Dinas Powys

Contractor:
ACV Construction

First floor extension, to include new roof, single-storey rear extension and loft conversion. The scheme consists of two-storey and single-storey extensions to the rear and side of the existing house. The first floor consists of three additional bedrooms with en-suites.

At ground floor level, the proposal was for a substantial lounge, kitchen/family room & utility room extension. The local builder has been in contact throughout, keeping Building Control informed at each stage in consultation with the owner. *This has resulted in a very high standard build, with superb finishes.*

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Address: **TY TANDDERWEN, BONVILSTON**

Agent: **Kotzmuth-Williams Architects**

Contractor:
Wayne Moore Construction Ltd.

A two-storey and single-storey extension with part refurbishment of an existing extension.

The construction team showed an excellent depth of technical knowledge; this resulted in the extension and the existing coming together seamlessly, with an excellent standard of finish throughout.

Regular contact and site meetings between the contractor, architect and Building Control meant a strong working relationship has developed.

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Address:
22, VICTORIA SQUARE, PENARTH

Agent:
1010 Architects, Penarth

Contractor:
St. Brides Building & Scaffolding Limited

The proposal is a single-storey extension, consisting of a family room, gym, lounge and utility rooms.

The extension, which is constructed to the side and rear of the existing Victorian property, has also been formed to maintain the existing rear bay window which now faces into a newly formed courtyard. The extension has both flat and pitched roofs, to present both traditional and modernist aspects to the property.

The construction has been inspected throughout, with good liaison between the builder and Building Control, which has resulted in a high- quality extension for the modern age.

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VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2017

NEW INDIVIDUAL HOME

Address:
9 GRANGE CLOSE, WENVOE

Contractor:
Mr Tom Gent c/o CASS Scaffolding

Agent:
1010 Architects, Penarth

This development involved demolition of the existing property and construction of a new four-bedroom dwelling.

The ground floor consists of an impressive entrance hallway, large open plan kitchen and dining area, a guest bedroom with en-suite, along with a cinema room. The first floor includes a master bedroom with en-suite and two double bedrooms. The walls externally have been clad with timber and the roof covered with shingle. The large volume of timber cladding to the walls posed a problem with fire resistance, due to the close proximity to the neighbouring properties.

Working closely with the Building Control department, the architect and contractor overcome the issue efficiently. The standard of the finishes internally and externally is xceptional with very close attention to detail.

This attention to detail, along with the impressive energy efficiency rating, makes for a fantastic build.

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info@1010architects.com
029 2071 0100

Address:
DRYSLWYN, WICK

Agent:
Barry Mayled Architect & Garden Design, Penarth

Contractor:
MRJ Properties Limited

This application, submitted in a full plans format, provides a new dwelling in place of a sub-standard bungalow previously occupying the site.

The existing building was demolished to make way for this new two-storey dwelling, with habitable accommodation within the roof space.

The main living accommodation to ground and first floors benefits from uninterrupted views over open countryside, to the rear elevation via large span bi-fold door arrangements. The property is heated by means of a ground source heat pump, with the pipework set within the large rear garden and field.

Attention to detail sets this dwelling above similar one –off builds to produce a property with extremely high standards of finish.

Barry Mayled
Architect and Garden Designer
is pleased to be nominated for the Vale of Glamorgan Building Control Awards 2017 in the 'New Dwelling' category at Dryslwyn, Trepit Rd, Wick.
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Tel: 029 2070 5864
Email: barry.mayledhomesandgarden@outlook.com
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Address:
VALE VIEW,ST. NICHOLAS

Agent:
Davies Evans Partnership, Bridgend

Contractor:
Briarley Construction, Cowbridge

This four-bedroom bungalow was constructed on a difficult to access and restricted building plot.

The developers' experience of constructing bespoke dwellings was evident throughout the construction phase, and this resulted in the property being finished to a very high standard.

The large open plan kitchen and living area, with bi-folding doors, gives unobstructed views across the local countryside.

The developer was able to effectively organise the various local tradesmen to ensure a smoothly-run development.

Excellent communication with Building Control throughout the project led to any issues being resolved efficiently.

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NEW INDIVIDUAL HOME

Address:
THE LINKS, ABERTHIN
Agent/Architect:
Don Mitchell Associates
Contractor:
Steven & David Lewis

This application, originally submitted as an application to extend the existing dwelling, was soon replaced, by a further application for a new dwelling, when the extent of demolition was realised.

From its elevated position, the main living accommodation enjoys spectacular views over the surrounding countryside.

Contact with Building Control throughout the building operations was regular, and resulted in the trouble-free completion of a substantial property with extremely high standards of finish.

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BEST CONVERSION

Address: **TRUMPTON HOUSE, BARRY**
Agent/Architect:
EPT Partnership, Cardiff
Contractor:
Mr David Frost

This Grade II listed former fire station, built in 1901, was unoccupied for many years – which resulted in the building falling into a very poor state of repair.

Fortunately, the developer was eager to restore the building and preserve the life of this iconic building, along with the associated history. The development started with a large-scale repair operation, to remedy many defects prior to commencing with the conversion work. The conversion includes eight luxury apartments, the re-build of the rear annex and the construction of a tranquil communal garden, all of which have been finished to an exceptional standard. The developer was keen to retain the industrial feel of the building which is identifiable throughout.

The exposed steelwork, retention of the staircase and access to the practice tower through one of the apartments gives you a constant reminder of the building's history whilst adding a depth of character.

The close working relationship between the developer and the Building Control department meant any issues were resolved with ease.

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BEST PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING

Address:
LLANDOUGH HOSPITAL
Agent/Architect:
Powell Dobson Architects
Contractor:
Laing O'Rourke

This proposed new development consists of a Mental Health Unit, on three storeys (lower ground, ground and first). The building is situated on a sloping site, allowing escape to the outside area at both lower ground and ground level .

Numerous site meetings were held between the contractor's architects, various NHS trust staff and building control to plan and discuss how the project would develop through the construction process. *As a consequence of this team-developed approach, and the professionalism of the contractor, the unit was constructed to a high class finish.*

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BEST SOCIAL HOUSING

Address:
CWRT COL-HUW, LLANTWIT MAJOR

Agent:
Gillard Associates, Cardiff

Contractor:
Jehu Construction Limited

This application, for 18 affordable apartments, was submitted in a full plans format.

The main issue for the contractors to deal with was the severe restrictions of the site layout, with little space for storage of incoming materials.

Hence a programme of material deliveries was developed to ensure a smooth flow of traffic onto the site.

Despite the severe lack of space, the contractor used his vast experience to produce quality construction within the contract period for this much-needed type of accommodation.

This development is well worthy of its inclusion in our awards presentation.

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newydd

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BEST PARTNERSHIP

Address: **THE TRAMSHED**

This award recognises the best development team approach, long-standing relationship, or co-operative approach to problem solving.

There needs to be evidence that the partnership has developed beyond the 'normal' working relationship and continues to use LABC over an extended period of time. Entries should include information about the relationship with Local Authority Building Control.

Specific Criteria:

- Length of partnership
- Variety of projects
- Innovative solutions developed by working in partnership
- Strengths of partnership
- Consistency of work
- Value of partnership
- New work gained from the partnership.

D.S. Properties have proven that the above criteria has been met and fully achieved to a high standard. Building Control teams from The Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff City Council, have worked closely with the contractor and teams of experts to achieve the outstanding development.

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BEST SUPERVISOR

This award recognises a specific individual, rather than an overall company. Nominations should be for a site manager who has stood out – by going above and beyond the call of duty – to ensure an outstanding working relationship with the local authority.

LOCAL BUILDER/ TRADESMAN

This award recognises good quality general builders or specialists in local craft skills.

Specific criteria:

- Vernacular building reflecting local traditions and construction materials.
- Consistency of high quality craft skills.
- A history of repeating good quality work.
- Local, small scale projects in the domestic or new build market.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN BUILDING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2017

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As the Vale's most widely read and distributed weekly newspaper, we are committed to supporting the community as a whole, and local businesses in particular.

As such, it gives us genuine pleasure to publicly acknowledge their professional achievements – and what better way to do this than through these prestigious Vale of Glamorgan Council awards?

The nominees listed in this special supplement had to fight off formidable competition to get this far and they can be justifiably proud of themselves

The GEM, too, is pleased to play its part in honouring this Vale success story.

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ACD Skips is a family-run company that was set up in Bridgend as a one-lorry operation in 1993.

The company has grown in size quite considerably and has overcome many hurdles, due to the vast changes in Environmental legislation and waste policies.

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The company is progressive, is open to any new waste reduction initiatives, and actively pursues new waste recycling ideas.

It continues to source waste streams to recycling end-users. Understanding the requirements of its customers, together with good service, remains a top priority.

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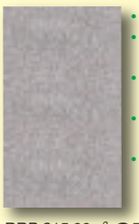

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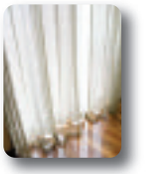

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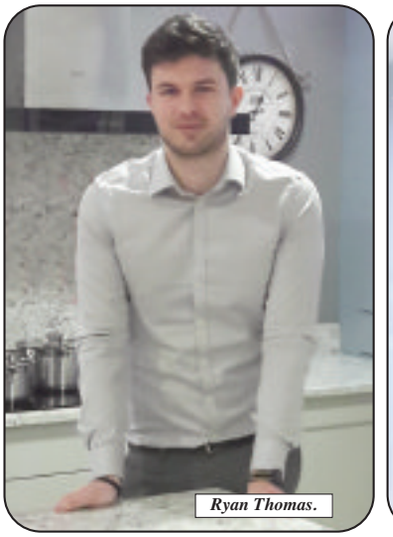

Ryan Thomas.

RYAN THOMAS, Sigma 3 kitchen designer and local Bridgend boy, talks to us about working for a family run business and shares his advice on turning your kitchen dream to a reality.

Having grown up with my father and older brother working in the business for a combined 40 years, kitchens have very much been the talk of the house. I had always wanted to sink my teeth into the challenges of being a kitchen designer for Sigma 3, so when the opportunity came, I jumped in with two feet, and I love it!

Being a family run business, customer service is our number one priority. We thrive on our customers recommending us to family and friends, we care about what we do so it's very rewarding when we know we've helped create someone's dream kitchen.

Our customers become lifelong friends and I have many that pop in whenever they're passing to say hello and have a cup of coffee.

My favourite aspect of kitchen design is that every kitchen is different, all of my customers bring their own personal touch to a design, which is perfect for me as it means I've never designed the same kitchen twice.

One truly unique design was a couple who purchased an old barn that had no roof and had a 50ft tree growing in the middle of it. It was a long build process, but working together every step of the way, and seeing the barn transform into a beautiful new home was inspiring.

My advice to new customers is to always do their research. Kitchens are the heart of the home, so you want to create a space that you can enjoy while cooking or entertaining and, most importantly, it needs to work for you.

Designing a kitchen is a journey and we're here to guide you through the process, just pop in for a chat and let's see how we can make your dreams come true.

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Undertaking a new profession in old Barry

Part 2: Funeral directors: 1889-1919

LOCAL historian Laurie Owen is fascinated by the history of Barry – in particular the remarkable growth in population when the docks were built.

In this installment, he looks at how one business grew, in response to the increasing numbers of residents.

The Docks opened in 1889 and the arrival of thousands of navvies and later whole families had seen a sharp increase in the number of deaths and burials within the town. This presented opportunities to some of the new arrivals and over this period, competition would be intense as they vied for their share of this growing demand.

DAVID Spickett (1824-1895) was born into a family with ancestral rights to a portion of Cadoxton Common and by 1861 was living with his wife Margaret (nee Jenkins), son William and baby Margaret, and already a carpenter employing one man and a boy.

Having been sexton at Merthyr Dovan church for many years, a role which included grave digging and burials in coffins made by father and son, they were already undertakers.

From 1881 at least, he had the contract to carry out 'pauper burials' but in 1895 his tender of 30 shillings was now too dear and it was granted to James Jones for 18 shillings. This was the harsh new world of competition.

An interesting story in the press was when the Burial Board accused him of taking a pauper to the cemetery in a 'greengrocer's cart'.

David found this deeply insulting, as it was a perfectly acceptable 'spring cart' and said that if they wanted a hearse, then they should pay him the 10 shillings extra as they did in Cardiff.

Sadly in 1895, David died after a short illness in Wesley House, his home for many years, and he was buried in the churchyard with his elder brother William.

William Spickett (1855-1932) had married Annie Maria Hiley in 1887 and carried on the business, moving from Barry Road to 181, Court Road by 1901 with four daughters: Abigail, Elsie, Doris and Sybil, followed six years later by son Frederick William Kenneth Hiley.

His press advert emphasised that they had been established for 60 years and that they were the 'Oldest and Only Experienced Undertakers in the District'.

When William died at 181 Court Road in 1932, son Kenneth would carry on the tradition and 115 years later the business is still trading at that address, and until recently under the family name.

It must have been galling for David and William that with extra business now available in this booming industry, at least nine other undertakers would set up in direct competition over this period and they were all newcomers.

David William Thomas (1862-19 ...unknown) was born in Llanddeusant, Carmarthenshire to parents William and Martha and with his father a carpenter, David also entered the same trade.

With wife Mary and two young sons Tom and William, David came to Barry for a fresh start, in the knowledge that there would be ample opportunities for a skilled man. They settled at 4 Vere Street and quickly extended their space into number 5 and in the census of 1891 he was a cabinet maker and undertaker, even repairing carts as a wheelwright.

In April of that year he set up in partnership with James Jones, as undertakers 'Jones, Thomas and Company'. In a move which in hindsight he might have regretted, just seven months later he auctioned the entire contents of his large furniture store.

With wives of working men now improving their homes, his early adverts had proclaimed that he was the only 'practicable cabinet maker/upholsterer in town' yet within months he was bitten by the burial bug.

Unfortunately two years later David was declared bankrupt, explaining to the court that trade in Barry was depressed and that he was not a good businessman and had kept no official records.

Surprisingly, his adverts as an undertaker continued until 1898, so possibly James Jones was still involved in some way.

As with so many of the newcomers from west Wales, they were bilingual and religious and in the Mission Room in Iddlesleigh Street (Main Street), David was the organist and director of the choir.

At some stage, the whole family left Barry and were next recorded in Enfield, Middlesex in the 1901 and 1911 censuses, with David working as a carpenter/joiner.

James Jones (1865-1917) was born in Newchurch, Carmarthenshire to parents John and Anna and in 1871 his father was a pig drover, bringing up young James and elder son John aged 14.

He arrived in Barry in 1887 with new wife Anne and began trading as a greengrocer at Holton Road but soon realised that burials could be profitable and, as mentioned earlier, his tender for pauper burials in 1895 was 40 per cent lower than that of David Spickett.

By the next census he was an undertaker, furniture remover and fruiterer at 67 Holton Road with two nephews; David Jones, at 20 a coffin finisher, and Thomas Evans, a 26-year-old coffin maker, with niece Mary Thomas their housekeeper at 18 years of age.

In a confident and bold advert, he displayed his prices for a top of the range funeral at 12 guineas down to a third class with a 'shellibere' (various spellings) and coach at four guineas.

In 1911, James and Anne still had no children, but David was now a funeral director/engraver and Thomas a casket maker/carpenter.

This newcomer from Carmarthenshire was also an active citizen by being a JP, a member of Glamorgan County Council, Barry UDC and was on several other committees. Politically he was a moderate Liberal and attended Holton Road English Baptist Church.

After suffering a painful illness for some months, James died in 1917 aged 52, leaving Anne a widow. His funeral was attended by council members, tradesmen, Freemasons and many members of the public.

After his death, an advert stated that the business would carry on, presumably run by his nephews.

John Jones (1857-19...unknown) The elder brother of James was a grocer at 57 Main Street by 1891 and already a widower. His sister Mary was helping with his young children, Alcwyn, Arthur, Annie and Gertrude, with David Evans and Thomas Johns working as grocer's assistants.

At some time over the next 10 years he too was bitten by the burial bug and was trading at 153 Holton Road opposite the Windsor Hotel as an undertaker and furniture remover, with his workshop and mews at Bassett Street. In 1901, he expanded by opening at 1 Charles Street, Cardiff.

Researching names such as these has proved difficult but it is possible that John died before the 1911 census, because his sister Mary was a restaurant keeper at 2 Paget Road on the Island, with his youngest daughter Gertrude assisting her.

Records show that his eldest son Alcwyn Elkington Jones died in 1924 in Lowestoft, where he was a curate.

The reason why these two brothers were competing against each other in Holton Road is unknown.

Edwin James Hooper (1867-19…unknown) was living at 50, Salop Street in 1901 with his wife Caroline, three stepsons and their daughter. Parents Jacob Israel and Delilah brought their large family to Penarth and by 1881, father and son were undertakers.

An 1895 advert announced that EJ Hooper was an undertaker at 178 Holton Road, with their workshop and mews in Regent Street. With a furniture van also available for hire, it was possible to place orders at the ironmongery premises of his brother WH Hooper in High Street.

No record has been found of Edwin, Caroline and their young daughter Caroline in the 1911 census, but the two eldest stepsons Thomas and Theodore were boarders in Penarth.

When Jacob died in 1912, he left a small legacy to William H Hooper who was not the eldest son, suggesting that maybe Edwin had died or maybe emigrated.

William Hedley Hooper (1868-1934) was the third son born to Jacob and Delilah in Llanelli, before coming to Penarth with the family by 1879.

Following his marriage in 1888 to Elizabeth Morgan and the birth of Gwendoline, they moved to Barry where he opened as an ironmonger at High Street, with his 14-year-old brother-in-law Rees Morgan as an assistant.

William had to learn a trade new to his family and by 1901, with a second daughter and two young sons he was living at 2 Hilda Street.

Sharing their home were three sisters-in-law who were helping out and both William and 24-year-old Rees were now recorded as 'Master Ironmongers'.

With obvious ambition and expansion in mind he opened a second shop in Llantwit Major, quickly followed by large premises at 81, Holton Road. He had been advertising as an undertaker at 99/100 High Street since 1900 and then also from Holton Road two years later.

As a matter of interest to all Barry residents, a young Dan Evans would assist him at this address, before taking over the hardware business just four years later.

Back in High Street, William set out to make the funeral business more professional and in 1908 he published a comprehensive 'Funeral Record and Ledger' which was well received and sold to the trade.

As a true entrepreneur, he wanted to offer a service that his many competitors were not giving. To this end he set sail in 1909 on the *RMS Mauretania* to learn the art of embalming, and at Boston he studied and then returned with the respected Diploma of Massachusetts College of Embalming.

Thereafter all his adverts announced that he was an embalmer and sanitarian, stressing that he would be accompanied by a 'capable lady attendant'.

William used the outbuildings at the rear of the Barry Hotel to stable his horses and carriages and the premises are still used today for the repair and maintenance of cars.

In 1911, eldest son Hedley Morgan was attending private school and living with grandfather Jacob in Penarth.

The business continued to flourish at 98/100 High Street for many years, most likely with the help of Elizabeth and their three sons, Hedley, Samuel and William and then in 1934 William died at 'The Elms', their home in Harbour Road.

William James Hallett (1877-19...unknown) was born in Cardiff to parents James and Sarah and the family lived in Roath for the next 20 years, with the father working as a carpenter.

William was a coachbuilder by the time they arrived in Barry, so they were both well qualified to be funeral directors. Their home at 5 Wyndham Street was also the branch office and in 1900 they teamed up with a coal merchant, trading as 'Adams and Hallett' at 134 Holton Road.

For reasons unknown, just two years later they were advertising separately with AG Adams staying at number 134, with William moving further up the road to 248 and also at 5 Broad Street. He was offering 'first class work at third class prices, with his own practical and personal attention', yet his time in business was seemingly not to last.

By 1911 he and wife Florence Gertrude (nee Moss), their daughter Gertrude and three sons Ernest, Percy and Harold were living at 56 Brook Street and he was working for the railways as a wagon repairer, as was his father James.

Confusingly, the 1923 Kelly's Directory still listed William James Hallett as an undertaker at 55, George Street.

Alfred George Adams (1852-1931) was born in Pill, Bristol to parents John Henry and Clara and his father was a mariner and later a Bristol Channel pilot.

After marrying local girl, Sarah Ware, in 1875 he was a coal merchant and grocer in Pill with two small daughters.

With a new town growing on this side of the Channel, Alfred left his family to build a business here and by 1891 he was an employer coal merchant at 16, Greenwood Street. A partnership with undertaker WJ Hallett briefly followed and by 1901, wife Sarah had joined him at 134 Holton Road with daughter Edith, sons Bramwell and Rowland and his father-in-law Henry Ware.

The business flourished and by 1911, Sarah, Edith and Rowland were all working in the company, with Hannah Thoday as a domestic servant. Son Bramwell, who had gained a BSc at Cardiff University and was a secondary school master in Llanelli in 1911, was tragically killed in action in France in 1917.

The business was still in Holton Road in 1923 and although Alfred died in 1931 at 27 Wyndham Street, we all know the legacy he left is still with us today at a different location.

Augustine J Stone (1869-1924) was born in Cardiff to parents Gaius Augustine and Mary and his father had been an undertaker at 10-12, Working Street for at least 20 years.

In 1901 he was living and working as a coachbuilder/undertaker at Newport Road, Cardiff with wife Ida and two domestic servants. Although he would not live in Barry, in 1902 he opened a branch office at 101 Holton Road to complement the one in Cardiff.

When he died in 1924 at Newport Road, his sizable bequest illustrated that the burial business could be profitable for some.

A late arrival to the funeral scene was a coal merchant from Mynyddislwyn, Monmouthshire named **George Gay (1863-1934)**, who was living at 38, Cross Street with his wife Mary (nee Crowther) and sons Arthur and George in 1909.

His first advert as an undertaker was in January 1913 at Station Street, followed in 1919 by an announcement that George Gay & Sons would be trading at 152, Holton Road.

In time, it seemed that the Spickett family curtailed their advertising, but James Jones and family, WH Hooper, AG Adams and Gay & Sons were still regularly displaying their services up to 1919 and beyond.

Belgian Black horses and Shillibiers featured prominently in the adverts, but the horses in fact were Friesians from Holland which were shipped via Antwerp in Belgium, hence the name.

The plumes on the horses' heads illustrated the standing of the deceased in the community, ranging from two for someone of modest means up to seven for the very rich.

A Shillibier was named after its inventor, George, and was a combined hearse and mourning coach, but early models had no brakes, so stopping depended on the driver's control of the horses, with a little help from drag chains.

At this time Holton Road was the main centre for business, but it should be remembered that initially it was just a muddy, narrow lane where shopkeepers laid down planks of wood to allow customers to enter their premises.

During this period of the 'burial boom' there were so many undertakers in Holton Road that it must have been a constant reminder of mortality.

Samaritans DEAL pupils a good hand

by Andy Johnstone

DEVELOPING Emotional Awareness and Listening – known as DEAL – is a teaching resource from the Samaritans for schoolchildren aged 14 and over.

Aimed at pupils in the UK and the Republic of Ireland, Samaritans Cymru launched its bilingual version of the scheme to coincide with a recent World Suicide Prevention Day.

According to *The Good Childhood Report* (2012), many young people in Wales have negative attitudes towards mental health difficulties among peers and avoid seeking help with their emotional problems.

The report also states that while most children are happy with their lives as a whole, around one in 11 (9%) is not.

This amounts to half a million children in the UK aged eight to 15 who have low wellbeing at any given time. The delivery and teaching of emotional health and awareness in educational settings can help with communication skills, social skills, co-operation, resilience, a sense of optimism, empathy, self-esteem and problem solving skills

The DEAL resources contain session plans and activities that are divided into the themes of: emotional health; coping strategies; dealing with feelings; and connecting with others (communication skills).

Lesson plans, activities, hand-outs, audio-visual resources, teachers' notes and staff training materials can all be accessed and downloaded from Samaritans' website.

Sarah Stone, executive director for Wales, said: "We are eager to support schools in Wales to further engage with vulnerable young people. Our DEAL programme is aimed at increasing the understanding of emotional health and improving effective coping strategies in young people through their PSE [personal and social education] programme.

"Developing an understanding of emotional health and encouraging help seeking is vital to create opportunities for young people in Wales.

"Samaritans believes that through finding ways to respond to people in distress, we can make a significant difference to the rate of suicide. We must work together, locally and nationally, to achieve real change in Wales."

Bridgend Labour MP Madeleine Moon, present in a Westminster Hall debate on the subject, backed DEAL.

She said: "The resource pack is available for teachers to take it into schools, or the Samaritans will send volunteers into schools to undertake, separate from the school system, talks and raise awareness for young people.

"That is the sort of low-cost — not expecting lots of money to be involved — involvement of people and organisations such as the Samaritans, with their specialist knowledge and awareness, that is extremely helpful in reaching young people."

For more information, visit www.samaritans.org/DEAL.

Samaritans is available round the clock, every day of the year. Call 116 123 to talk.

‘City Deal’ plan takes another step forward

THE City Deal, which promises to introduce £1.2 billion into the regional economy, is about to take a further step forward.

A ‘Heads of Terms Agreement’ was signed between the 10 local authorities in the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR), and the UK and Welsh Governments in March 2016.

The next step is a ‘Regional Cabinet’ comprising of the relevant local authority leaders. This cabinet, currently has a shadow status, but it expected that it will lose that status on March 1.

The City Deal comprises an investment programme of £1.2 billion into the regional economy, including £734m for the creation of a South East Wales Metro transport scheme.

Each authority must approve a commitment by the 10 authorities to borrow a total of £120 million as part of the CCR City Deal Wider Investment Fund.

Coun Andrew Morgan, chair of the CCR Shadow Joint Cabinet, and leader of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, said: “Together we can bring about an economic and social step-change in the Cardiff Capital Region, through improved transport, supporting innovation, an improved digital network, developing skills, supporting enterprise and business growth, and through housing development and regeneration.”

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Vale Council said: “The meeting of the Vale Council on February 9 represents an important stage for this council in the City Deal process.

“Thus far, the Vale Council has played a central role in the negotiations with the partner authorities, who have worked extremely hard over the last 18 months to get to this important stage.

“I look forward to reporting the matter to council on February 9 where members will have the benefit of a full and detailed report, and make their decision on the proposal.”

The 10 local authorities are: Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr, Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen, Vale of Glamorgan.

News from 1st Penmark and Porthkerry Scout group

1ST Penmark with Porthkerry Scout group has had a great start to 2017.

The sections are back in full force with Beavers building spaghetti towers. Cubs have held a forum to discuss what activities and trips they would like to do this year.

They have also been experimenting to learn about density, creating patterns with ‘magic milk’ and cooking. Scouts have been looking at fitness and keep fit and looking at maps and compasses. They also have been discussing their future activities.

There are a number of children moving sections over the next few weeks, so we have Beavers linking with Cubs and Cubs linking with Scouts.

An exciting time and it is lovely to see the children get older, learn new skills, have fun and move up through the group to take on their next exciting challenges.

‘You Shape’ is happening throughout February and that is about ‘empowering the children in each section to shape what they want to do and how they want to do it’ from creating games themselves to play, to patrol leaders running an activity.

January 21 saw the Scout group’s first fundraiser of the year.

The Shameless performed at the Rhoose Social Club and an excellent evening was had by all.

The music was great, the dance floor was full and the group raised over £600.

The Scout group would like to say a massive thank you to The Shameless and the Rhoose Social Club for providing the music and venue free of charge so that every penny raised was money for the group.

Also, thanks to everyone who attended on the evening to make it such a good night.

During February, the Scout group will feature in Waitrose Barry’s coin scheme, so if you make a purchase and earn some coins, please support the group.

This year marks the Scout group’s 40th birthday, and the group is currently planning ways of celebrating that milestone.

Further information will follow.

If you would like to know more about the group or get involved please contact the group scout leader on gsl@penmarkscouts.org.uk.

PR

Knap life guards receive grant aid

A VALE life guard group that patrols Cold Knap received a Government grant this week totalling almost £16,000 to help them carry on their good work.

Water rescue charities around the UK were awarded a total of £913,000 by John Hayes, Minister of State at the Department for Transport, this week.

It was the third round of funding provided under a five-year, £5 million scheme, announced as part of the 2014 budget statement.

The grants support charities running local lifeboat and rescue services, helping those in danger on and around inland and inshore waterways, including during flooding and other incidents.

The money can be used to buy new lifeboats and other equipment such as lifejackets and safety gear.

The beneficiaries were: Rhondda (Cold Knap) Lifeguard Club – £15,990.43; Porthcawl Lifeguard Club – £19,780.03; Rest Bay Lifeguard Club – £3,010; Surf Life Saving Association of Wales – £22,901.34; and the Civil Aid Voluntary Rescue Association – £5,065.32

Dubai flights from Cardiff

THE first Thomson direct flights to Dubai took off from Cardiff Airport on Monday.

It will operate a 767-300 aircraft from Wales’ national airport at Rhoose and passengers will disembark at Dubai to meet up with their cruise ship.

Debra Barber, managing director at Cardiff Airport, said: “It is fantastic to see yet another new, direct long-haul cruise route operating from Cardiff.

“Dubai is a hugely exciting destination and I’m sure these new itineraries will prove popular with cruise customers.”

Christmas tree collection ends

Coun John visits Cowbridge Compost to see the Christmas tree recycling service.

THE Vale Council’s waste and recycling teams have had a busy time collecting residents’ Christmas trees recently, with residents being able to put them by the kerb with their regular refuse and recycling collections.

Now that they have been collected, the trees have been taken to Cowbridge Compost at Llwynhelig, where, along with garden and food waste, they are to be turned into compost.

Vale Council cabinet member for visible, leisure and regulatory services, Coun Gwyn John, visited the farm to see the work done by the Cowbridge Compost team, which has been composting organic wastes for over 15 years.

Coun John said: “It’s been fantastic to see so many residents using the service, and making a vital contribution to our environment.

“The team here do a great job of recycling the waste, and it’s been encouraging to witness the increased awareness of residents when it comes to recycling and the environment.”

Michelle Fitzpatrick, recycling officer at the Vale Council, said: “We’re really pleased with the response from Vale residents, and we’d like to encourage even more to make their New Year’s resolution to be greener than ever before.”

Residents can collect compost free between 10am to 2pm on the last Sunday of every month at Court Road Depot, Barry.

Do you like Socks?

Socks.

DOGS TRUST ‘Dog of the Week’ is Socks, a nine-year old terrier cross who, despite his age, is quite spritely and loves to play with his toys and games.

He will need an active home that will give him regular walks as he is a clever and sparky boy.

Socks will need time to settle in his new home so his new owners will need patience while he is settling down.

He is good with other dogs on a lead, but will need ongoing training. If you love terriers and are interested in Socks, visit our website or call on 01656 725219.

Cadoxton WI’s New Year meeting

CADOXTON WI’s first meeting of the New Year was well attended and the president welcomed a new member.

Forthcoming events were discussed and the committee were thanked for the variety of organized events for 2017. Raffles were won by Sue Griffiths and Pam Hill.

The meeting closed after members had enjoyed refreshments and a chat. Meetings are held at Victoria Park Community Centre every third Monday at 7pm; contact 01446 404891 for more information.

Flag day for ABMU medicos

THE standard of training for specialist doctors in ABMU has been judged the best in Wales – and among the highest-ranking across the UK.

Each year, the Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (JRCPTB) carries out a survey of junior doctors who are training to become specialists in endocrinology and diabetes.

It covers everything from clinical and education supervision, access to educational resources, workload, and overall satisfaction.

The JRCPTB summarises the scores for each category using a series of colour-coded flags.

Red flags denote a score that is well below the national average while green flags are significantly above it. The other flags indicate scores either on or above average.

None of the Welsh health boards had red flags and ABMU’s five green flags was not only the highest proportion in Wales but also tied with two NHS trusts in England for second best in the UK.

Only Oxford University Hospital’s NHS Foundation Trust did better.

Professor Jeffrey Stephens is a consultant physician in diabetes, endocrinology and general internal medicine at Morriston Hospital.

He is also an education and clinical supervisor for medical trainees at Morriston, and a clinical professor in diabetes at Swansea University Medical School.

Professor Stephens said: “The aim of the survey is to highlight weaknesses and strengths. ABMU comes out very well, in joint second place behind Oxford for the provision of quality training.

“As well as being good for trainees in diabetes and endocrinology training, it provides reassurance and confidence for other trainees in the health board’s ability to deliver specialist training.”

ABMU had green flag in overall satisfaction, clinical supervision, adequate experience, supportive environment and access to educational resources. Its performance has steadily improved over the last three years.

TO LET

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- 21 Tennyson Road, Penarth

No rest for The Jam Fund over Christmas and the New Year!

by GEM REPORTER

THE Jam Fund never sleeps and is always working to help children with serious health issues and their families – whatever the time of the year.

Over Christmas and the New Year the charity was just as busy as ever spreading hope and goodwill.

It was started in memory of Jamie Adamson, who died of cancer at the age of five in 2004.

Jamie was born on Christmas Day, 1998, and to celebrate his life on Christmas Day 2016, his father Paul released red balloons with special notes attached asking people whether they knew of a child who needed help.

Paul told The GEM: "I let 18 balloons loose from Jamie's graveside at Barry cemetery on Christmas morning.

"One of these was found by a lady in Abingdon in Oxfordshire."

Lisa Baldwin, a mum of one, spotted a scrap of a balloon among leaves on December 30, when she was walking near her home in Geoffrey Barbour Road, Abingdon.

She noticed a tag tied to the remainder of the balloon, which had sailed the 120 miles from Barry.

Lisa contacted a friend Sally Hall, founder of Abingdon children's charity Blue Skye Thinking, who suggested three children who would each benefit from £250 offered by The Jam Fund.

Paul Adamson was thrilled that the ladies had found children The Jam Fund could help.

He is now seeking to help four children in the Vale or Cardiff with a serious illness who need help. The charity will donate £250 each, but they must be youngsters the charity has not helped before.

Paul added: "The Jam Fund was also able to help the Ware family in Barry over the Christmas period.

"The Wares light up their home every Christmas to raise money for charity and their chosen charity was the Amelia Trust Farm.

"Unbelievably, someone decided to steal a charity collection box from the wall of their home so the Jam Fund stepped in with a £500 donation to help replace it.

"The Barry Round Table also assisted the family with a donation. The Ware family have consistently raised money for various good causes and to think that somebody can be callous enough to steal from a charity is saddening."

Paul can be contacted at the email: jam fund@sky.com.

RHOOSE COUPLE'S DIAMOND WEDDING

John and Sheila Jones of Rhoose with their diamond wedding anniversary cake.

JOHN and Sheila Jones of Rhoose celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on January 19 with a family party at The Fontygary Inn at Rhoose on January 21.

They were delighted to receive a card from HM The Queen.

John and Sheila met in 1956 when they both worked at the Rhymney Brewery and went on to marry and have three children, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

TICKETS PLEASE! National Welsh reunion planned

National Welsh staff pictured after a trip to Blackpool in the 1970s.

NATIONAL Welsh Omnibus Services – often referred to as National Welsh – operated in south-east Wales and in the Forest of Dean from 1978 until 1992.

To mark 25 years since the company ceased operations in February 1992, Norman Chinnock, formerly an inspector at National Welsh Bridgend, has organised a reunion on February 10 at 7pm at Bridgend Railway Club on Coity Road – and it might be the last one.

Speaking to The GEM, Mr Chinnock – who now lives in Scotland – said: "This reunion is for all ex-Bridgend staff or relatives, or indeed anyone who would like to attend.

"Taking ages into account, this will probably be the last time such a reunion will be possible."

He continued: "I would like to put a call to arms through The GEM to maximise coverage of the event and to get this information out to as many former staff as possible.

"I will be travelling from Scotland and another ex-employee will be coming from Dublin. It would be great to get a few more old faces together on February 10."

Mr Chinnock said that a number of Facebook groups exist for former National Welsh staff, and former staff should search for Wonderful Western Welsh to keep in touch with former colleagues.

Mr Chinnock is happy for former employees of National Welsh, or their families, to contact him by email at normanandanna@hotmail.co.uk or on 07551954007 to discuss the reunion.

More great news for veterans as breakfast club is launched

HARD on the heels of Vale Armed Forces' veterans getting a drop-in centre at Barry Athletic Club, Sully Sports and Social Club has agreed to a veterans' breakfast club on Saturday mornings.

It is due to start on Saturday, February 4 and will run from 9am until 12 noon every Saturday.

Local veteran, Anthony Fitzpatrick, explained: "There are other breakfast clubs such as the one in Cardiff, but we wanted one locally so people don't have to travel 10 to 15 miles.

"The inaugural day will be held on February 4 when local MP Alun Cairns will open it.

"All veterans and serving members of the Armed Forces are welcome.

"There are no commitments or subs.

"Our ethos is mutual support. It will be a great place to meet like minded people for support, chat and banter – not forgetting a great breakfast!

"The group is ran by veterans for veterans in the Vale. Turn up on Saturday mornings and you will be made welcome."

Choir helps Mind to the tune of £1,000

Mind in the Vale receives a cheque from the choir.

MENTAL health voluntary support group Mind in the Vale has benefited from Barry Male Voice choir to the tune of £1,000.

Mind representative Barney Sanders said: "We are overwhelmed by the generosity of the audience present at the choir's Christmas concert held on our behalf.

"We would like to thank the choir and the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band for their contributions. It was a wonderful example of community support."

Choir chairman Gareth Roberts added: "Supporting the community is a major priority for the choir. In addition to its Christmas concert, the choir over the Christmas period sang at St David's Church Colcot, at the switching on of the High Street lights, at Wetherspoons' Sir Samuel Romilly, at Barry Hospital and at Tesco, Culverhouse Cross.

"More recently the choir performed at the tenth anniversary celebration of the Barry library."

SSAFA needs volunteers

SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity formerly known as the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association, which has nine branches in Wales, is urging people to build on their New Year's resolutions and learn new skills, while giving something back to their local Armed Forces community, by becoming a volunteer.

SSAFA Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan branch operate volunteer-led support services across the county with a county-wide need for new volunteer caseworkers who directly deliver the support.

The charity, which has supported serving members of HM Armed Forces, veterans and their families for over 131 years, is seeing the requests for support from this group increase.

If you are interested in joining your local SSAFA team, visit www.ssafa.org.uk/new recruits or call 0800 032 5612.

SSAFA volunteer caseworkers support members of the Armed Forces community in a range of ways, such as:

Visiting them in their homes, assessing their needs and building a bespoke package of support.

Providing support with issues such as – mobility, home repairs, household goods, homelessness, marriage breakdown, mental health problems, urgent debt support, essential food and groceries and clothing and training costs to help younger veterans back into work.

Accessing funds for house adaptations for a serviceman or woman injured while fighting for the UK.

Befriending elderly veterans and providing them with company and happiness to combat loneliness and isolation.

Raising the rent for a young veteran unemployed and struggling with the transition from military life to civilian life.

Three Peaks challenge

THE Meningitis Now charity is looking for outdoor enthusiasts to join its Three Peaks Challenge in June, raising funds to fight the killer disease.

The 36-hour challenge, designed to push walkers to their limits and give them a real sense of achievement, takes place between June 9 and 11 climbing Snowdon, Scafell Pike and finally Ben Nevis.

Until the end of January Meningitis Now has guaranteed places for just £49, plus a commitment to raise a minimum of £500 in sponsorship towards work.

In return trekkers get transport, accommodation, food and the support of a qualified safety team to take them on the memorable challenge.

There's also an opportunity to attend a training day in the Brecon Beacons on April 30 to test fitness levels and equipment, advice and support from the charity's professional and friendly events team and 15 per cent discount at Cotswold Outdoors.

Rachel Oakley, event officer at Meningitis Now, said: "This demanding but breathtaking adventure will provide picture-perfect moments and memories to last a lifetime. The Three Peaks Challenge is definitely not one to be missed and we're with you every step of the way! Please sign up today and make a difference to the lives of people facing the devastation of meningitis."

Meningitis Now is committed to saving lives and rebuilding futures torn apart by meningitis, through research, awareness and support.

Contact www.meningitisnow.org, or telephone 0345 120 4530.

Choir for hire!

BARRY Community Choir has restarted rehearsals and along with two main concerts will reach out to the community during the year at care homes, residential homes and charity events.

Contact the choir on 01446 748724/029 2053 1359 or email: info@barrycommunitychoir.com.

It rehearses at Crossways Church, Barry, on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30pm.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D967.

● **£2,000: 985004**.

● **The rollover, which was £500, was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 170270, 130172, 412958, 100517, 852569, 274777, 649528, 811550, 945727, 117219, 336474, 159307, 146246, 938691, 541678, 308876, 504989, 926209, 898345, 1008322.

● **£5:** 845461, 559903, 293143, 980111, 847980, 772064, 830785, 433164, 721099, 643908, 389089, 205231, 766733, 684931, 882159, 357867, 852178, 771608, 415383, 459314, 841101, 669349, 104441, 526226, 575213, 163439, 617763, 778816, 430136, 982275, 931540, 290285, 763056, 504495, 948104, 864818, 808122, 300287, 177586, 713261, 577959, 639192, 381991, 757394, 291865, 755019, 215993, 365623, 574492, 138455, 362992, 646377, 777186, 867964, 714543, 503, 1299, 1353511, 1689234, 1710473.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

For all your latest news... glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Peterston panto packs out the village hall for three nights of entertainment

Photographs by IAN DIXON

THE Peterston-super-Ely entertainment society packed the church and community hall over three nights (January 19-21) for the annual pantomime.

There were corny jokes, lots of songs and dance, as once again Jack defeated the giant in the society's production of *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

The show was a great success, with polished performances from a superb cast, most professionally organised by producer Helen Timms.

Penarth lecture on social justice issues

REVEREND Aled Edward, the secretary of Cytûn (Council of Churches) in Wales will give the annual lecture of Penarth Cytûn.

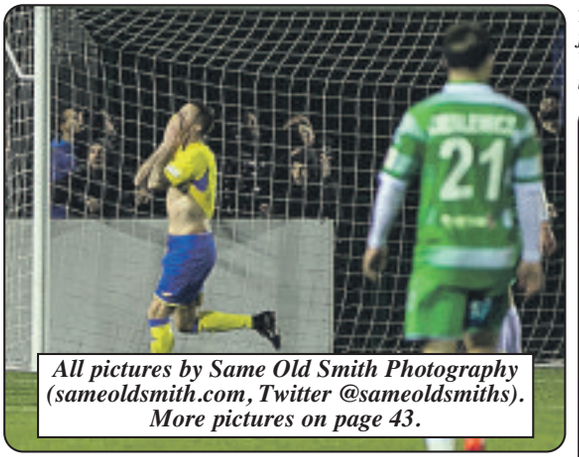
Rev Edwards will speak on social justice issues and of his work with refugees and asylum seekers, for which he received an award from the Queen.

The meeting will be in Trinity Methodist Church, Woodland Place, Penarth on Wednesday, February 1 at 7pm.

Reverend Aled Edwards.

TNS too strong, but Barry Town United do themselves proud with performance

THERE was disappointment on Saturday as Barry Town United faced TNS in the Nathaniel MG Cup final at Cyncoed Stadium. While the team lost 4-0, it was a superb performance from the team, who will now look to achieve their aim of promotion.



All pictures by Same Old Smith Photography (sameoldsmith.com, Twitter @sameoldsmiths). More pictures on page 43.

Sully View bounce back

AFTER the previous week's hammering, the Sully View were determined to get back on song, as they sought the double over Cathays.

Attacking from the kick-off, on reaching the visitors' 22 they lost possession, and Cathays' strong running backs were only foiled back in the Sully 22.

Cathays were awarded two penalties in quick succession, and taking them quickly before the home defence could get back in place, they scored a good try to take the lead, and seemingly knock back the View's ambitions to recover from last week's drubbing.

The conversion wasn't taken however, when the referee called time over the kicker taking too long in his preparations.

Stung into action, Sully took control up front, and behind their threes ran with power and good angles, and with the ball carrier always having at least one player in support, they took complete control of the game.

By the break they had opened up a 24 point lead, with tries from Adam Wheeler, Dai Harris and Nathan Taylor, and Chris Cummings adding two conversions and a penalty.

In the early minutes of the second half, Cathays regained some of their composure, and were able to use the powerful backs to good effect, soon scoring a converted try to give themselves a glimmer of hope.

Prop Jody Velda, celebrating his birthday, then received a card from the referee - unfortunately it was yellow, and he was sent off to the bin for 10 minutes.

Even down a man, the View again took control, but it wasn't until Velda returned that they got their next try (converted by Cummings), and a bonus point, and it had to be the birthday boy himself who broke through for this vital score.

This was quickly followed by an unconverted try for lock Alex Szuchnik, and now it appeared that Sully would score at will, but on the View's next attack the visitors' scrum-half was sin binned when he tackled the Sully winger just before he received a try-scoring pass.

Sully soon made the numerical supremacy tell as D Russell ran in for another converted try.

To their credit, being a man down and seemingly with no answer to Sully's power, Cathays pulled themselves together got into the home 22, and laid siege to the line, eventually scoring their second converted try.

There was still 20 minutes left of this highly-entertaining, and high-scoring, game, and both sides had something to achieve – Sully were looking to breach the 50 point mark and to increase their season's overall try count, which could make a difference to their final league position, and Cathays were after one more try, at least, to gain a bonus point.

Surprisingly, although the game continued to be open and flowing, neither side were able to add to their tally, as both sides' last line of defence stood firm, and Sully ran out 48-19 victors.

The only downside to the weekend was the postponement of Sully View's second XV fixture at home to Caerau, as over 30 players made themselves unavailable, or did not notify the club as to their availability.

With the seconds only having a handful of official fixtures, it is extremely disappointing not to be able to fulfil all of them, and even arrange a few friendlies, with such a large pool of players.

All players are urged to take a more active involvement in training, and communication over availability.

The next fixture is on Saturday, January 28, and will see Sully View travel to second-placed Hirwaun - meet at the Clubhouse at 12 noon.

The next reunion will be held at the Market Street Club on Friday, January 27, and welcomes past and present players/members for an easy going evening.

The reunion will raise money for a local charity, as identified by, and closely connected to, the players themselves.

MJS

New kit proves lucky for Tynewydd FC

TYNEWYDD FC christened their new kit with a 3-1 win against Dinas Powys Athletic at the Sports Centre on Saturday.

Having been established for 10 years-plus, amazingly this is Tynewydd's first sponsorship deal and they are proud to link up with AutoSpray - Leon Butler is pictured presenting the kit to manager Gareth Union.

Going into the game after a heavy defeat, moral amongst the team was surprisingly good and that helped Tynewydd start on the front foot and create numerous chances early on.

At the midpoint of the half a fumbled shot allowed Mark McCarthy to pounce on the keepers mistake and give Tynewydd a 1-0 lead.

Lee Clarke, making his debut in goal, helped in making an incredible goalline stand after an almighty goalmouth scramble to maintain the Tynewydd's lead, a lead they soon doubled after some neat play down the right wing resulted in a cross being swung over from Dafydd Gibbs that was met with a tremendous diving header from youngster Jack Cooke, another of Tynewydd's new signings.

Dinas had a lifeline handed to them at the start of the second half with a contentious handball decision that awarded them a penalty.

With score at 2-1 Dinas applied more pressure looking for an equaliser but it was Tynewydd who grabbed the next and final goal of the game.

Lloyd Union skipped through two defenders before the third defender scythed him down in the box resulting in the game's second penalty.

Julian Brana, who had an outstanding game playing in an unusual position of central midfield, stepped up and calmly slotted the ball home to give all three points to Tynewydd, the final score 3-1.

Man of the match could have been awarded to numerous players after some great displays on the day, but Pravesh Pydannah took the spoils after an excellent game at left back.

Squad: L. Clarke, S. Eveleigh, J. Shepherd, J. Clissett (c), P. Pydannah, M. McCarthy, D. Gibbs, E. Hicks, Ll. Union, J. Cooke, G. Union, L. Peterson, G. Tinsley, L. Union, P. Union, L. Butler, G. Pycroft.

JC

Bulls ready for Challenge Cup test

BRIDGEND Blue Bulls start out on the road to Wembley this Saturday as they take a trip to the English capital in the first round of the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup, taking on London Chargers at New River Stadium (kick-off 1pm).

The 74th Challenge Cup game in history to feature a Welsh side, the Blue Bulls enter the grand old competition for a second year in a row and hope to go one better than last year when they were soundly beaten in Cumbria by Egremont Rangers, playing the match after a six-hour coach journey.

This time, it will only take half the time to travel to their opponents and the Bulls, who won the Welsh Conference Grand Final in 2016, are looking to do what Valley Cougars couldn't in last year's Conference League South Grand Final, and turn over the London side.

Bridgend head coach Gareth Howells said: "Bridgend Blue Bulls are excited to be involved in the Challenge Cup again this year and we are very much looking forward to a tough game against London Chargers.

"We've been training hard for the game and our recent friendly match against the students certainly helped us with our preparations.

"We would also like to take the opportunity to thank the London Chargers for organising the venue and we'd like to wish everyone taking part in the Challenge Cup, the best of luck this weekend."

The Chargers v Blue Bulls match is the first of a triple header at New River Stadium on Saturday. Following their game, London Skolars host London Broncos in a friendly at 3pm before Wests Warriors face Great Britain Police in another Challenge Cup game at 5pm.

Wales' two professional clubs, North Wales Crusaders and South Wales Ironmen, enter the competition in the third round.

IG

PENARTH HOCKEY CLUB RESULTS ROUND-UP

ALTHOUGH the weather claimed one of Penarth Hockey Club's games at the weekend, both the second and third XIs made the most of their scheduled encounters to continue the unbeaten start to 2017.

PENARTH A 9, WHITCHURCH C 2

Penarth's second XI looked to keep the pressure on the top two teams in De Cymru 1 as they hosted a struggling Whitchurch team already beaten by eight goals in the first meeting between the sides at the start of the season.

The home team started well and scored with their first attack, as Chris McCarthy broke down the right before driving into the 'D' and finding Phil Lane. He, in turn, picked out David Joyce, who rounded the keeper and found the back of the net.

The lead was doubled soon after, with Lane spinning at the top of the 'D' before rifling a powerful shot past the motionless keeper.

At 2-0, however, the Bears became a little complacent and allowed Whitchurch more possession, which eventually resulted in the visitors working the ball well and scoring a deserved goal to reduce the deficit.

This spurred Penarth back into action and the two-goal lead was quickly restored, as Rich Baker set up David Kidby for another tap in. Then, on the stroke of half-time, the Bears were awarded a penalty corner when captain Sam Chick was wiped out by the Whitchurch keeper, allowing the home defence to push forward with impunity.

After Joyce's initial effort was well saved, the extra men paid off, as the rebound was wonderfully controlled and smashed home by right back Dave Stevens, a finish any centre forward would have been proud of.

The second half saw more of the same and the fifth goal didn't take long to come as Joyce grabbed his second of the game. Penarth were in full control by this stage and a sixth strike followed swiftly with Lane again finishing well from the top of the 'D' after a superb cut-back from McCarthy.

To their credit, Whitchurch continued to push forward and grabbed a second goal from a well-struck penalty corner, but any chance of a comeback was soon removed as Joyce netted twice more to rack up an impressive four-goal haul for the game.

Determined not to be out-done, the scoring was rounded off with the final touch of the game as Lane completed a well-deserved hat-trick by finishing from an acute angle.

Although the comfortable scoreline will do much for Penarth's confidence and goal difference, they now face a difficult trip to face Swansea City A this weekend, looking to make it three wins in a row since the Christmas break.

SWANSEA UNIVERSITY C 1, PENARTH B 1

The third XI travelled to Swansea for a top-of-the-table clash against a university who had already triumphed in both their previous clashes this season and had yet to drop a point to any opposition in De Cymru 3.

With a much-changed team due to unavailability, Penarth decided to switch tactics and line up with only one forward and play a counter-attacking game in a bid to bolster the midfield and protect the back four.

This tactic seemed to work, with the defensive midfield duo of Rob Harrison and Mark Robinson giving little opportunity for the students to muster any significant attacks and, when they did manage to get through to last line of defence, this stayed solid, with Craig Llewellyn and Ian Brookfield covering well to leave goalkeeper Mark Harris with a much quieter first half than expected.

The students duly grew more frustrated as the half went on, and began to leave gaps at the back for Penarth to exploit. Taking advantage of the unexpected opportunities, the visitors won a series of penalty corners and, from their second, went 1-0 up as skipper Dave Watkins finished off a well-worked move to claim his 20th goal of the season – and break the university's season-long clean sheet on home soil in the process.

The shock of conceding at King George V Field seemed to spur the students on and, within five minutes or so, their pressure eventually led to a chance to draw level, with a well-worked move down the right ending in an overlap and tap-in at the far post.

Penarth, buoyed by their first half performance, continued in the same vein after the interval, with much the same result, with the students getting frustrated as the Bears counter-attacked with strength.

As the second half wore on, the visitors continued to gain greater possession and territory, allowing central midfielder Dave Thomas the space to start spreading passes and create further half-chances for the forwards. Richard Cousins and Sam Salisbury both found themselves with shooting opportunities, only to put the ball wide of the post as the game drew to a frantic conclusion.

The students thought that they had snatched a winner, largely against the run of play, only to be thwarted by an excellent reaction save from the stick of Harris, while Penarth had the final opportunity of the game, only for Watkins to misjudge a pass to Marc Sawyer with an open goal waiting.

With the game ending in 1-1 tie, Penarth remain well behind the students, in second place overall, but strengthened their promotion bid by opening an eight-point gap between themselves and the next best team ahead of this weekend's bye.

Three Penarth teams will be in action this week, with the first and second XIs facing bitter rival Swansea City at home (1.45pm start) and away respectively, while the fourth XI return to De Cymru 3 action with a trip to Gwent.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. When the regular season resumes, training will take place on Wednesdays at Stanwell School, with the juniors on the pitch between 6.15pm and 7.15pm and the seniors between 7pm and 8.15pm.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

CL

Hannah Mills (centre) with her gold medal.

Olympian Hannah Mills is honoured in Dinas Powys

DINAS POWYS Community Council Chair Margaret Hayley unveiled a plaque on January 23 to honour Dinas Powys' very own Olympic gold medallist, Hannah Mills.

Hannah, who won gold in the Rio Olympics with sailing partner Saskia Clarke, attended the event along with pupils from St Andrews Primary, local villagers and Vale Tory MP Alun Cairns.

Mr Cairns gave a speech to the assembled crowd praising Hannah Mills' determination as an inspiration to the children of Dinas Powys and the Vale.

Hannah said: "It's quite overwhelming. It is really nice to see everyone come out and support me.

"It's important that youngsters take up any sport because there are so many distractions these days. My dad took the first stomp on the plaque so he's made his mark."

Following the unveiling, those present took to the Parish Hall for refreshments, giving local people a chance to see Hannah's gold medal up close and to discuss her exploits.

Mr Cairns said: "Hannah Mills is an inspiration to youngsters here in Dinas Powys and across the Vale. I was very glad that so many children from the local primary school were present to see her and learn about her achievement.

"The local community is rightly very proud of Hannah, and it was fantastic to see such great support for her at the ceremony."

Council praised for championing inclusive sport

BRIDGEND County Borough Council's efforts in championing inclusive sport opportunities have been recognised by Disability Sport Wales.

Having achieved Disability Sport Wales' Insport Bronze level accreditation in 2014, the council's continued work in supporting local sports clubs and organisations to become more inclusive has seen its accreditation level raised to silver, with gold now in its sights.

The local authority has a dedicated Disability Sport Wales Officer who operates the National Disability Sport programme, working with schools and local organisations to identify opportunities for people with disabilities.

A range of targeted services and programmes are also in place to support all groups of people to be more active including those with disabilities, older people, women and girls and people living in disadvantaged areas.

Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet member for wellbeing and future generations, Coun Hailey Townsend, said: "The legacy of Team GB's Paralympic success, along with support from local authorities and organisations such as Disability Sport Wales, is seeing more people with disabilities across Wales taking part in physical activities.

"As well as nurturing disabled elite athletes, we also want to make sure that people of all levels of ability have opportunities to be active in some way."

Disability Sport Wales' partnership manager, Michelle Daltry, said: "Disability Sport Wales is delighted to award Bridgend County Borough Council the insport Development Silver Standard.

"The drive and determination to ensure that all disabled people have a high quality experience of sport and physical activity is second to none. Bridgend are one of only three Local Authorities to have achieved this standard to date and I look forward to working with them towards Gold Standard."

For more information on inclusive sports within Bridgend County Borough, call the council's Disability Sport Wales Officer on 01656 815220 or email aypd@bridgend.gov.uk.

The Barry & District League tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

Rhoose Social 9, West End 6; West End Runaways 7, Cadoxton Cons 8; Liberals 5, Wyndham Cons 10.

League table: Liberals 111, Wyndham Cons 109, Rhoose Social 100, Moors Boys 99, West End 99, West End Runaways 98, Cadoxton Cons 89.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

King William XII 5, Liberals C 2; Rugby Club 3, West End C 4; Slammers 6, Allsorts 1; Rhoose Social C 5, Rhoosters 2; West End D 6, Rhoose Social B 1; Liberals A 6, Rhoose Social A 1; Barries Boys 5.5, Cambrian Flyers 1.5.

League table: West End D 68.5, King William XII 67.5, West End C 61, Sea View B 58, Rugby Club 51.5, Allsorts 51, Barries Boys 49.5, Rhoosters 48, Rhoose Social C 46.5, Rhoose Social B 45, Slammers 39.5, Rhoose Social A 38.5, Liberals C 36.5, Liberals A 36, Cambrian Flyers 31.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Services Social B 0, Rhoose Social B 5; Cadoxton Cons B 3, Penarth Cons A 2; Harbour B 3, West End C 2; Cadoxton Cons Z 3, Wyndham Cons A 2; Penarth Cons B 1, Savoy A 4.

League table: Savoy A 58, Harbour B 57, Cadoxton Cons Z 47, Wyndham Cons A 40, Cadoxton Cons B 39, Rhoose Social B 35, West End C 30, Penarth Cons A 30, Services Social B 25, Penarth Cons B 25, Rhoose Social C 24.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Sully Sports A 2, Wyndham Cons D 3; Liberators 4, Cadoxton Cons A 1; Savoy B 2, Harbour A 3; Market Street C 3, West End B 2; West End A 1, Wyndham Cons C 4.

League table: Liberators 53, Wyndham Cons C 47, Savoy B 47, Market Street B 43, Harbour A 41, Cadoxton Cons A 40, Market Street C 37, Wyndham Cons D 31, West End B 30, West End A 30, Sully Sports A 26 (* = points deducted).

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

Evan's long trip pays off

HAVE horses, will travel. That's the motto of Llancarfan's Evan Williams, who last week had a runner in the first two races at far-flung Ayr in Scotland.

Both of them were successful under stable jockey Paul Moloney.

The double was initiated when *De Dollar Man*, a six-year-old chestnut gelding, made it three wins out of three when winning the Racing UK National Hunt Maiden Hurdle by a length from *Trongate* and just over 40 minutes later, his *Billy Bronco* who, like *De Dollar Man,* is also a six-year-old chestnut gelding, came home six lengths ahead of *Sideways* in the Racing UK Profits Returned To Racing Maiden Hurdle.

Both horses, who were well backed, are owned by point-to-point racing stalwarts William and Angela Rucker from Worcestershire.

BRIAN LEE

Swimming club seek volunteers

BARRY Beavers Disabled Swimming Club are currently being inundated with interest from potential new swimmers after a recent volunteering road show at the Memorial Hall, and are looking for more helpers to join the club.

Those interested can look up information about the club via GVS (based at the Enterprise Centre on Skomer Road, Barry), by calling Pat Finch on 07517 121729 or via our Facebook page, Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club. All interested parties would require a DBS check.

NC

Dinas Powys to play at Jenner Park

DINAS POWYS FC entertain Cwmamman United in a Welsh League Division 2 fixture on Saturday, January 28.

Due to issues with the showers at the Murch, the game will be played at Jenner Park, with a 2pm kick off; entry will be via the Barry Road entrance.

RG

1960s Jenner Park, Barry, reunion

Jenner Park 1962.

The last year of infants in 1960.

Gaynor Saunders (left) with Glenys Lockley.

by GEM REPORTER

A reunion of former pupils of Jenner Park School from the 1960s will take place at the Cherry Orchard on Friday, June 23 (8pm until late).

Glenys Lockley, who moved to Chester in 1970 and still lives there, and Gaynor Saunders, who lives in Barry, are trying to track people down to let them know about it.

Glenys Lockley told The GEM: "The reunion is because it is 50 years since my class left school (1967)."

Girls and boys attended Jenner Park as infants and juniors, but the boys went on to Cadoxton as seniors while the girls stayed.

Glenys said they had already had some success in tracking people down.

"It is easier finding boys than girls because when the girls get married their names change.

"We already know that we have people coming from Barry, Rhoose, Llantwit, Bridgend, Birmingham, London, New Zealand and France.

"So far we have had 35 responses, but are keen for a lot more.

"Twenty five years ago, we had a reunion at what was then the College Inn and, if memory serves me right, we had about 50 people.

"We are looking forward to meeting up, having a drink and a good natter."

Glenys Lockley can be contacted on 01244 881947. People can also find information on Facebook by searching for 'Jenner Park 1960s'.

Barry cowboy Pete in DVD launch of *Magnificent Seven*

WHEN the mighty Sony Studios wanted a media 'Western Experience Day' to help launch the DVD of *The Magnificent Seven* last week, it wasn't to the High Chaparral they looked to, but to Barry where our own international award winning circus skills trainer and performer, Pete Gamble, is based.

Cowgirl – and boy – learning the skills!

'Pecan Pete from' 'A Handful of Hats' explained: "I've been very fortunate to be able to compete and perform around the world and was pleased to be asked to put a complete package of western skills together for such a prestigious event that followed the theme of the film.

"Our extensive experience with TV and film work paid off and after much discussion we taught a great bunch of folks from *Good Morning Britain*, MTV, Culture Trip, Radio Times and others how to spin a lasso, throw a rope, shoot and spin a .45, fire a Winchester, throw a knife, crack a whip and throw an axe!

"All this was delivered in the UK's most authentic complete Western movie town, Laredo in Kent.

"If you want to be a cowboy yourself, group and one-to-one training sessions are available in the Vale through *www.ahandfulofhats.co.uk*."

Pecan Pete with GMB presenter Richard Arnold.

MAESTEG HOSPITAL LEAGUE OF FRIENDS RAISES MONEY FOR 'GEL' CHAIR

Sister Helen Bridgeman, John Thomas (chair of the League of Friends), Dianne Thomas, Michael Banks, Lynda Williams, Steve Jones and Lowri Roberts from the speech and language therapy department of the hospital.

THE Maesteg Hospital League of Friends is still working hard to raise funds for their local hospital, and this year they have provided a special 'Gel' chair for the use of the patients.

This chair is fully adjustable to suit the needs of the individual patient, and easily moved about. It has pressure-relieving cushions, so that patients can now get out of bed and be comfortably and safely seated.

It also has head support cushions which are especially useful for those patients who may have had a stroke. The League of Friends also provided two special air mattresses which have been in constant use since they were delivered to the hospital.

This year the league also supported the speech and language therapy department by providing the funds to buy some toys for the many young people using the department.

The total cost of all these items was almost £5,000. Some of this money came from donations and legacies to the League, but most of the money was raised at the Maesteg Hospital fete which takes place every June, and is always wonderfully supported by the town.

This year, the 55th annual Hospital Fete will be on Saturday, June 17 in the Market Square, and league members are collecting items for the bring and buy stall.

If you have any items you would like to donate, telephone 735988 to arrange a collection. The League is also looking for new members to join the committee to help organise the fete and other fundraising events. Telephone the same number if you are able to help – you would be most welcome.

LW

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Family Notices

JONES
Neil Carmichael
(of Bridgend, formerly of Pontycymer)

Suddenly at home on 16th January 2017. A beloved husband, father and bampa.

He will be loved and missed everyday and forever in our hearts.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Wednesday, 1st February at 10.30am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Sandville (c/o Penybont Funeral Home).

MORRIS
Den

Suddenly passed away and taken away from us, but at rest with his beloved and adored wife Jane.

Much loved stepdad to Dawn, James and grandfather to Morgan, Bethan and Ciaran.

You will always be in our hearts but you are now back with mum.

PARFITT
William 'Bill'
(of Cowbridge)

Peacefully on January 23 at Brocastle Care Home, aged 92. Dearly loved father of Roger, father-in-law of Jan and grandad to Eliza and Amy.

Funeral service on February 2 at 2pm at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge. Donations, in lieu of flowers please, to be forwarded to the Injured Jockey's Fund.

DAVIS
Edward "Ted"

Passed away at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, on January 15th, Ted of Hilary Rise, Barry. Dearly beloved husband of Irene.

Ted will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry, until his funeral service in the chapel on Tuesday, January 31st at 2pm, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3pm.

Family flowers only, but donations, in lieu of flowers to the RNLI (Barry Docks Station).

TRESIDDER
Colin John

Colin sadly passed away peacefully on January 17th at Llandough Hospital, following a long illness. A much loved dad of Robin, Garry, Nicholas, Sandra and their families. Cherished gramps to all of his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Colin will be greatly missed by all of his family and many friends.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Wednesday, 1st February at 11am. Family floral tributes only, although preferred donations may be made at the service or via Colin's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages and memories. All donations received to support Ty Hafan Children's Hospice.

Colin's family wish to thank all doctors and medical staff for their exemplary care and support given to Colin throughout the duration of his illness.

THOMAS
Robert David 'Rob'
(of Ewenny Road, St Brides Major)

Passed away suddenly on Friday, 13th January 2017, aged 51 years. Beloved husband of Catherine, loving father to Bryony and Edward. Adored son of Eileen and the late Illtyd Thomas.

Rob will be greatly missed by all of his family and friends, especially the community of Cowbridge where he was the proprietor of High Rise Books.

Funeral service and a celebration of Rob's life is to be held on Friday, 3rd February 2017 in Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.45pm. Family flowers only please, however donations in lieu of flowers can be made to a local Dementia Care Fund or c/o Catherine after the service.

All further enquiries are to be directed to Rosemount Funeral Home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend, CF31 3AP. Tel 01656 653156.

KEMBLE
Florence May (Anne)

Peacefully at home with her family around her, aged 90 years. Adored wife of Roy for 67 years, beloved mother to Soo and Jill and much loved grandma to Polly, Dan and Lucy.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Wednesday, February 1 at 1.15pm. Family flowers only.

QUINN
Linda Mary
(Née Jenkins)

Suddenly but peacefully on the 9th January, 2017 at home, Linda, aged 68; beloved mum of Debbie and Rachel, a much loved nan to all her grandchildren and great grandson.

Linda will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Resting at A.J. Stone & William Ham, 1a Neville Street, Canton, Cardiff, CF11 6LP, until the service on Thursday, 2nd February 2017 at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend, Crallo Chapel at 11.30am. Donations, if so desired, to The Dog Trust (Bridgend).

NIBLETT
Mary Christine

Peacefully on the 18th January 2017 at College Fields Nursing Home, Mary, aged 85 years, sadly passed away surrounded by her loving family. Beloved wife of the late Ken, a loved mother of Graham, Peter, Tina, Jeff, Glyn, Ann and Deborah. Mother-in-law of Barbara, Rosemary, Alun, Jan, Robert and Tim. Cherished nan to her grandchildren and Nanny Mary to her great grandchildren.

Mary will be received into St Helen's RC Church Barry at 5pm on Monday, 30th January. Funeral service to take place on Tuesday, 31st January at 9.30am at St Helen's RC Church, Barry, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service or sent to Park Funeral Directors, Barry to support the Alzheimer's Society and Ty Hafan Children's Hospice.

Acknowledgement

MORGAN
Fred

The family would like to thank everyone who attended Fred's funeral, the numbers who turned out were overwhelming. Your love and support was greatly appreciated.

He will be missed by all.

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Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.
Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice.
A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Jonathan Thomas trading as **Jonathan Thomas Contracting** of **New Parc Farm, St Donats, Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan, CF61 1ZB.**

To add operating centre to keep **1** goods vehicles and **2** trailers at **New Parc Farm, St Donats, Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan, CF61 1ZB.**

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A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Birthday

Paul Snook
(Snooksy)
Happy 21st Birthday
on 26 January

lots of love,
Mum, Gramps,
Callum, Kenno,
Nan & Bob xxx

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SUPPORTERS CELEBRATE GUIDE DOG DAY LANDMARK

Bridgend branch members celebrate after raising more than £50,000 for Guide Dogs Cymru.

SUPPORTERS of Guide Dogs Cymru in Bridgend are celebrating a magnificent milestone.

Just six years since it was set up, the charity's local fundraising group has raised more than £50,000 – enough to train and support a guide dog from birth to retirement – and members celebrated the achievement at their January meeting in Heronston Hotel.

Organiser Norah Clarke of Porthcawl said: "We've done it mainly by attending local events and holding store collections. It's all down to the commitment and dedication of a small committee and the fantastic generosity of residents and organisations across the county borough.

"Just last Saturday, we had a bucket collection in Tesco in Maesteg and raised more than £525. People are so kind, and really interested in our dogs."

The Bridgend group is chaired by guide dog owner Keith Barrett of Corntown, who has been blind since he was a baby. He raised more than £5,000 for Guide Dogs Cymru by riding a tandem from Paris to Swansea with the help of a friend from the Ogmore Valley Wheelers cycling club, and is currently paired with his sixth dog, Lena.

He and other members enjoy giving talks to groups of all ages, and some board guide dogs while the owners are away. Others train puppies during their first year, a role known as puppy walking.

The group is planning a busy 2017, with events including a quiz night at Laleston Gardening Club on Saturday, June 3. The next group meeting is at the Heronston Hotel at 7pm on Tuesday March 28, and newcomers are welcome. For more information, ring Norah Clarke on 01656 786018.

DR

Pictured, left to right: John Dickinson, Sam (Prince of Wales landlord) Geraint (Ellie's father) and Helen Embling.

Coychurch quizzers boost Ellie's life-changing journey

ON January 12, the Prince of Wales (Coychurch) Thursday Night Quizzers presented a cheque for £1,335 to Geraint Collier, the father of Ellie, in support of her 'SDR Journey'.

Three-year-old Ellie, from Coity, has hemiplegic cerebral palsy and the family are hoping to raise £65,000 for Just4Children to support Ellie to go to St Louis Children's Hospital in Missouri for a Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR) operation, that would change her life.

SDR would reduce the spasticity in Ellie's right leg and allow development of muscles that were previously hindered. It will ensure that she doesn't suffer with bone deformities and contractures when she is older.

Ellie will also need two years of intensive physiotherapy to ensure that the operation is successful.

Jumping, walking down the stairs, and riding a bike are things Ellie can't do now and will struggle to do in the future without an operation.

Through the efforts of her family, Coity Villagers' Association and others, three-quarters of the £65,000 needed to take Ellie to America for this life-changing operation has been raised in only 10 months.

Geraint has a further programme of fundraising over the coming months and we look forward to hearing the wonderful news in the not too distant future, that Ellie's SDR Journey target has been reached.

If you would like to help Ellie on the journey which will change her life, visit Ellie's SDR journey 'Just4Children' online.

HELEN EMBLING

Scout Council issues appeal for volunteers

AFTER last year's success of Cub Scouting's 100th birthday I need to request your support.

We need help to find more volunteers in wide ranging roles that need to be filled to continue to offer Scouting to more young people. Please would you review the types of roles we have listed below and think of people you know, both family and friends, who may be able to help us with volunteering for one of these roles.

There are many different volunteering roles available.

Some are weekly opportunities, and include the routine meetings held for people aged six to 25. Adults and young leaders (aged 14 to 18) are invited to apply.

There are also management and strategic roles, and executive positions on offer.

Scouting also needs supporters, people who can work in the Scout shop, web publishing and social media editors to keep our online presence up to date and media writers to get the good news about Scouting out in the community.

We also need photographers and videographers to capture our activities, and activity instructors as well as activity supporters to help out at district events. For most roles, a DBS check is required, and many of the voluntary positions have 'getting started' training involved.

Please contact me on 0330 330 1907 or email julian@penarthanddistrict.org.uk to discuss these positions.

JULIAN JORDAN
District Commissioner.

Woody's Lodge – a Barry hub for veterans

Jane Hutt AM with the Cabinet Secretary, Noel Godfrey and Mr Woodland and Sian Woodland.

ON January 23, Jane Hutt AM hosted at an event in the Senedd highlighting the Woody's Lodge initiative to support veterans in the Vale of Glamorgan.

She welcomed Cabinet Secretary Carl Sargeant AM, who spoke in support of the initiative.

Volunteers have been refurbishing Woody's Lodge – a former naval rating accommodation at RNR *HMS Cambria*, Barry – in order to create a communications and social hub for veterans. Woody's Lodge is named after Penarth Royal Marine Paul 'Woody' Woodland. who tragically died during a training exercise in 2012.

The AM said: "I was delighted to welcome members and supporters of Woody's Lodge management board to the Senedd today. Named in honour of Paul Woodland, the hub will provide a safe space for veterans in need.

"The hard work of the staff and volunteers at Woody's Lodge will mean that veterans in my constituency and further afield will be able to access vital resources and support."

Voluntary group looks back on a good day

Staffing the Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern stand John Fanshaw, Wendy Lees, Chris Franks (vice chair).

BUSINESS was brisk at the Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern stall for the volunteers' event organised in the Vale recently.

John Fanshaw, chair of the charity said he was delighted with the response from visitors. "The purpose of the day was to encourage people to volunteer. There were huge ranges of organisation present, ranging from Alzheimer's Society, to Barry Community Allotment to the Samaritans.

"We received inquiries from a number of people. What was impressive was the enormous number of voluntary organisations in the Vale."

If people want to learn more about Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern, contact 02920 513700 or info@dpvc.org.uk. Also, call into the office Murchfield Community Centre, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys (CF64 4QQ).

Rugby fans jet off to catch 'Les Bleus' away in Six Nations

WALES rugby supporters will be jetting off in their droves this Six Nations to see the home nation take on the 'Blues Away'.

In February and March almost 6,000 fans are expected to travel through Cardiff to see Wales play Italy, France and Scotland.

Some 3,600 supporters will be travelling to and from Rome for the first match – Italy vs Wales – on February 5.

The 'Celtic clash' between Scotland and Wales on February25 with a host of rugby charter flights departing from Cardiff. A total of 1,100 supporters will travel via Enterair.

Ahead of the France vs Wales game on March 18, around 1,100 Welsh supporters will travel to and from Paris on Flybe's regular daily service as well as on special charter services operated by Carpatair and Vueling.

Spencer Birns, commercial director at Cardiff Airport, said: "Rugby is a huge part of Welsh culture and we're proud to play our part and fly the flag for Wales all year round. With all of the scheduled services available to Italy, Scotland and France, there is still time to book a flight to support Wales away. Cymru am byth!"

Defeated... BUT BARRY TOWN UNITED IMPRESS IN LEAGUE CUP FINAL

OVER 800 supporters travelled the short distance to the capital to support Barry Town United as they faced TNS in the Nathaniel MG Cup final. This was the biggest game the club had been involved in arguably 14 years, and they put in a strong performance that, despite the defeat, left their supporters proud. Well done!

(See back page for the match report).

All pictures by Same Old Smith Photography (sameoldsmith.com, Twitter @sameoldsmiths). More pictures on page 35.

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Dinas Powys Wolves are the magnificent seven!

DINAS POWYS Wolves put in a majestic performance of great attacking football in the first round of South Wales under-14s Cup against Maesteg Park.

The young lads have been training hard on attacking options and defending as a unit for weeks now, and on Saturday it paid off with seven goals and a clean sheet.

Kyle Booker opened the scoring before Bayley Harewood made it 2-0. Rian Thomas read his lines well and a move right off the training pitch saw him add number three.

At the break the Wolves looked in control but were reminded that it was vital not to switch off as the visitors were more than capable of scoring.

The home side came out of the blocks with an intensity that is becoming a familiar sight now, and further goals from Booker and Harewood put the game to bed.

Frost and Lewis marshalled the back four while Quest and Williams stopped any threat wide showing strength and pace.

In the middle Joe Doughty and Zac Fifield won the ball and played it simple as their work rate was hard to match.

The hard working Thomas was replaced with Saunders, who kept the visitors deep and Hewitson's movement was proving very difficult to handle.

Jacob Pereira replaced the impressive Doughty which allowed Fifield the opportunity to push on and he was rewarded with a fine goal. Booker added the seventh to complete his hat-trick.

Dylan Morris was called on late in the game and stood strong to earn his clean sheet.

A large crowd were treated to teas and coffees to keep warm. Wolves certainly were a credit to the Vale League with a performance on and off the pitch.

Thank you to all who ensured the game was playable and Maesteg who made it an enjoyable match for the neutral.

LS

Barry and District Ladies Skittle League

RESULTS for the week commencing January 9 are as follows:

First division: SV Gals (B Pycroft, C Gaffney 30) 297, Pila Palas (A William 30) 271; Barry Stars (C Lambeth 34) 341, Family and Friends (S Brown, R Cummings 31) 323; Coppers (H Ford 31) 3330, Bakers Dozen (K James 35) 317; Colcot Ladies (C Fenton, K Taylor 28) 261, Red Admiral (M McCarthy, S Hayes 24) 232; Allsorts (S Tierney 29) 247, Space Finders (L Jones 24) 247; Cigar Ladies (A McCarthy 33) 305, Family Affair (S John 32) 286; Special Angels (L Brigham, L Mountford 22) 219, Bobby's Girls (G Toogood 25) 206.

Second division: Witchill Widows (S Murray 33) 299, Cad Con Fillies (T Dyball 32) 309; Airways Angels (J Thomas 24) 238, Breakaways (C Parfitt 28) 270; Merry Makers (H Duddridge 28) 201, Clickies (A Batt 28) 186; S V Lights (G Douglas, D Masterman 30) 260, Fallen Angels (R Phillips 27) 266; Witchill Weebies (S Dobbinson 36) 318, Castaways (P Clissett 32) 299.

Third division: Little Devils (L Bowsher 25) 249, Vixens (M Marks 31) 212; Challengers (D Collard 35) 310, Rebels (S Williams, P Stacey 28) 286; Upton Girls (L Hobbs 27) 239, Rugby Triers (S Watts, K Brooke 20) 194; SV Ladies (S Humphries 34) 300, Hill Billies (G Moorcraft 32) 279; Twilights (C Brown 25) 176, La Belles (E Cordy 25) 225; Etcetera (S Dyke 24) 223, Witches (P Cookson, S Beer, L Carey 25) 235; Westenders (R Morgan 24) 239, Dolly Mixtures (L Marsh 27) 249.

Fourth division: Nite Outers (L Nyshore 24) 201, Optimists (E Payle 29) 262; Boozy Birds (S Rudeforth 33) 312, Off The Rails (I Rosser 40) 309; Socialites (S Marks 28) 262, Persuaders (C Organ 32) 291; Guardian Angels (T Mountjoy 23) 192, Liberals (S Allen 21) 176; Odd Bods (R Perry, T Ceriani 27) 143, Witchill Wanderers (C Morrissey 29) 166.

Barry Chess Club news round-up

JUST the two league matches for the Barry Chess Club last week.

The results were different leaving the two Barry teams involved in matches in entirely different situations in their respective divisions.

The Camelots in Division 2 started the second half of the season at home to the Caerphilly Castles.

In the reverse fixture we lost by a margin of 3.5-1.5. This time around we managed wins by Sam Jukes, Chris Green and Tom Cooke. Marc Cooke and Stephen Bonutto recorded draws to give us a comfortable win by 4-1.

With eight games to go the Camelots sit comfortably in fifth place. There is no chance of getting into the promotion race unless we can continue our current vein of form over all of the remaining games.

This is our fourth consecutive victory with the last three games all being 4-1. We are, however, six points above the relegation zone so hopefully we will not be dragged into a relegation fight.

In Division 4 the Quarks entertained the Pontypridd Phoenix.

We lost the reverse fixture 3.5-1-5 and to show a manner of consistency we lost this home match by the same margin.

Our points came from draws by Peter Watkins, John Ryles in his first match for many seasons and also by the consistent Martin Ricketts, who has drawn all three of his matches in 2017.

The league table makes dismal reading as we remain in eighth place. We have caught up to the team in seventh place by a massive 0.5 points to leave us four points behind Bridgend C with a game in hand.

Elsewhere in Division 4 big wins for Rhondda Spitfires and North Cardiff Panthers leave us marooned in fifth place.

We are now six points behind the promotion places with only seven matches to play.

We are comfortably ahead of the team in sixth place so we have very little to play for except pride.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

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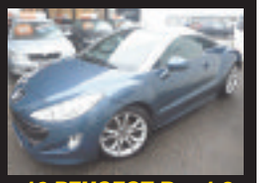

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61 SKODA Yeti 2.0 Diesel SE+TDi 4x4 In pacific blue, 77,000 miles, 1 owner **£8,995**

65 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 Limited Edition 3-Dr In red with black roof, 13,905 miles, 1 owner **£8,695**

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14 VAUXHALL Adam Glam 1.4 In very berry with cream roof, 25,000 miles, 1 owner, bluetooth, pan roof etc **£7,595**

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63 FORD Fiesta 1.5 TDCi Zetec 3-Dr In black, 56,000 miles. 1 owner, free road tax **£6,995**

11 CITREON C4 VTR 1.6 HDi Automatic In silver, 33,000 miles with panoramic roof.....**£6,995**

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12 FORD Focus 1.6 Titanium 5-Dr silver, 70,000 miles.....**REDUCED BY £500 TO £6,495**

62 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr In white, 32,000 miles, with a/c alloys etc **£6,495**

11 SKODA Octavia 1.4 TSi Elegance 5-Dr In silver, 48,000 miles, 2 owners.....**£6,495**

64 PEUGEOT 108 Active 3-Dr In red, 23,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax **£6,295**

63 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Energy 3-Dr In white, 20,000 miles, one owner **£5,995**

12 MERCEDES A160 Blue-Efficiency Avant Garde SE In met blue, 54,000 Miles ....**REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,995**

62 SKODA Rapid SE TSi 5-Dr In white, 59,958 miles, very nice example at **£5,995**

61 CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi Style In white with black roof, 73,000 miles, diesel, free road tax **£5,995**

60 SEAT Leon 1.2 TSi 'S' 5-Dr In black, 43,000 miles. Good looking car **£5,995**

09 VOLVO V50 1.8 Sport In red, 56,000 miles with alloys, a/c, good looking estate **£5,995**

11 CITROEN C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi Exclusive In met-grey, 63,000 miles, diesel **£5,695**

10 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.6 TDCi SE 5-Dr In met blue, 74,000 miles, diesel hatch **£5,495**

11 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SE 5-Dr In met grey, 41,000 miles with air-con etc **£4,995**

61 RENAULT Clio 1.6 GT Line VVTi Automatic In blue, 16,000 miles, with sat-nav ....**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**

11 MAZDA 2 Sport 1.5 5-Dr In spirited green, 74,000 miles, very nice throughout.....**£4,995**

10 HYUNDAI i20 Comfort 1.4 Automatic 5-Dr In red, 38,000 miles **£4,995**

10 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Edge Automatic 5-Dr In mulbury metalic, 41,000 miles ....**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**

09 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 3-Dr Automatic In hot magenta, 53,000 miles..... .....**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**

09 MINI One 1.4 In met grey with pepper pack, alloys etc, 57,000 miles.....**£4,995**

59 VOLKSWAGEN Passat High Line 2.0 TDi Automatic In met-grey with black leather trim, 88,000 miles **£4,995**

56 SUZUKI Grand Vitara 1.6 3-Dr In black, 69,000 miles, 2 owners 4x4 with extras at **£4,995**

58 HONDA Civic 1.8 EX 5-Dr Black with black leather trim, 66,000 miles, high spec **£4,695**

58 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.9 TDi (105) 5-Dr Match In met grey, 70,000 miles, diesel **£4,695**

05 BMW 118i SE Automatic 5-Dr In met-grey, 57,000 miles,1 owner, fantastic example at **£4,495**

09 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Titanium 3-Dr In black, 79,000 miles, £20 road tax **£4,295**

08 HONDA Jazz 1.4 SE Automatic In met-blue, 36,000 miles, very nice example..... **£4,295**

08 VOLKSWAGEN Eos 2.0 Convertable In black, 79,000 miles, 4 seater with solid roof **£4,295**

10 RENAULT Megane Dynamique 1.6 5-Dr In extreme blue, 57,000 miles, bluetooth, alloys etc .....**REDUCED BY £300 TO £3,995**

60 CITROEN C1 VTR+ 5-Dr In red, 46,000 miles, low insurance and road tax **£3,995**

09 SEAT Ibiza 1.2S 3-Dr In nayara blue, 55,000 miles, low insurance..... **£3,995**

08 CITROEN C4 Picasso 1.6 Diesel VTR Auto In met muave, 85,000 mile 7-seater **£3,995**

09 FORD Focus 2.0 TDi 136 Zetec Automatic Estate In met-blue, ideal family estate at .. **£3,695**

06 SAAB 93 Linear 2.0 Convertable (150) In black with cream leather, 66,000 miles..... **£3,495**

58 FIAT 500 1.2 In mama blue, with glass roof and alloys, £30 road tax **£3,295**

06 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr In met-blue, 64,000 miles, a/c, alloys..... **£2,295**

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Glamorganshire Golf Club ladies raised money for the Marie Curie Cardiff and Vale Hospice.

Club's drive sees thousands raised for Marie Curie

MEMBERS of a Penarth golf club have succeeded in their driving ambition to raise funds for a nearby charity.

Glamorganshire Golf Club's ladies' and men's captains joined forces to raise funds for the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Hospice, which is just a mile down the road from the club.

Ladies' captain for 2015/16, Alison Smith, said she and men's captain Alan Buchan, had decided to combine their charities of the year, because both wanted something local to contribute to.

"My mother was in the hospice at Penarth a long time ago, nearly 20 years ago, but we have never forgotten the wonderful care she received while she was there," said Alison.

The club donated more than £2,500 to the hospice, which provides round-the-clock expert care and support to those living with terminal illness and their families.

In order to raise funds, all proceeds from the ladies' charity open day went to the pot, along with raffles at the Easter fair, Christmas fair and ladies' open day.

The men also raised money on their open day, and during the presidents' weekend – which was held in memory of former president Peter Corrigan, who died in 2016 – funds were also raised for the charity.

Alison said she was pleased with the amount raised, adding: "The main thing is that it benefits the people in the hospice and the local community."

Clare Wright, community fundraiser, said: "A huge thank you to all members of Glamorganshire Golf Club for their fantastic effort in raising £2517 for Marie Curie.

"The funds raised will greatly benefit the care and support provided at our Cardiff and the Vale Hospice."

Marie Curie is now recruiting volunteers for its Great Daffodil Appeal 2017.

YMCA Barry proud of male artistic gymnastic squad's amazing achievements

ABOVE, BARRY YMCA MALE GYMNASTICS SQUAD. Back row, left to right: Taylor James, Josh Cook, Trivett, Harri Morgan, and Sammi Morgan. Middle row: Harley Clifton, Jay Williams, Jacob Williams, Charlie Watkins and Rowan Merrett. Front, Jacob Watkins.

YMCA Barry's male artistic gymnastic squad have had a hugely successful couple of months in several competitions and team selections.

There was much excitement when Sammi Morgan and Taylor James qualified to represent Wales at the British Grade finals. Taylor competed in the Level 4 Club competition and performed extremely maturely and executed some lovely routines. Taylor made YMCA Barry and the Welsh team extremely proud when competing such a high level of competition.

Sammi competed in the Elite Level 4 category where there was great success from Sammi and Team Wales. Sammi put in some superb routines and helped Wales to team gold.

This was a huge achievement for Sammi and teammates, as well as Welsh gymnastics as a whole.

Many of the YMCA Barry gymnasts competed at the annual Men's Welsh Floor and Vault Championships were where YMCA Barry demonstrated that they were a force to be reckoned with.

In the under-7s, the youngest category of the day, Jacob and Harley performed fantastically. On Floor, Jacob and Harley couldn't be separated and were jointly names Welsh Floor Champion, on Vault Jacob received third and Harley became the Vault Welsh champion, and overall, Jacob came second and Harley was crowned Welsh under-7s champion.

In the under-8s category, Rowan received fourth on Floor, fourth on Vault and fourth overall, Charlie became Welsh Floor champion, Charlie and Jay were jointly made Welsh Vault champions and Charlie overall became the Welsh under-8s champion. Charlie, Jay and Rowan performed together as a great team and also won the team gold for the category.

Moving onto the under-12s category, YMCA Barry gained even more results. On Vault, Taylor and Mason joint for fifth, Jacob fourth and Sammi became the Welsh Vault champion. On Floor, Sammi sixth, Taylor third and Jacob second. Overall, Sammi received sixth, Taylor third and Jacob second. Fantastically, the team of Cameron, Mason, Sammi, Taylor and Jacob were made Welsh under-12 team champions.

In the last category of the day, the under-16s Harri received second on Floor, second on Vault and second overall. Josh went onto being crowned the Vault, Floor and Overall champion of the under 16s category.

A big congratulations to all the boys who competed, YMCA Barry were extremely proud, especially with so many Welsh champions!

Josh Cook following on from such great success, was selected to represent Wales at the 2016 Northern Europeans. Josh had a fantastic competition against the best gymnasts in northern Europe, where he deservedly came away with fifth on Floor, fifth on High Bar and seventh on Vault. YMCA Barry are certainty demonstrating their competitiveness not only in Britain, but also internationally.

With such success at the end of 2016, YMCA Barry were ecstatic with the male squad working so hard all year. This has only been topped by extremely exciting news which was officially released last week. YMCA Barry are delighted to announce that Josh Cook and Iwan Mepham have been named on the long list of Welsh gymnasts aiming towards the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Over the next year, alongside four other gymnasts, Josh and Iwan will undergo several trials and competitions to decide the final gymnasts who will represent Wales in Australia 2018.

We wish Josh and Iwan the best of luck over the next year and hope to be able to see Josh in his first Commonwealth and Iwan in his second.

Additionally, good luck to Josh, Iwan, Dex, Harri and Sammi in the British Championships coming up in March.

Would your son or daughter want to join one of Wales most successful gymnastics clubs? YMCA Barry has classes suitable for children from crawling to teens in preschool, male and female artistic, rhythmic gymnastics, cheerleading and trampolining. If you would like any information on any of our classes, follow us on social media @ymcabarry, call 01446 724000 or email sophie@ymcabarry.org.uk.

SE

Tim and Alan in great form

ABERTHIN National Hunt trainer Tim Vaughan has been in cracking form of late.

Last Friday at Chepstow his *Tanit River*, partnered by Alan Johns, landed the Best Odds Guaranteed at 188 Bet Chase Novices' Limited Handicap at odds of 16-1 and his *Fields Of Glory*, which made the 407 miles long trip to Musselburgh, took the Celebrating 30 Years Of Jumps Racing At Musselburgh Handcap Chase under champion jockey Richard Johnson.

Fields Of Glory went off at odds of 4-1 and those lucky punters who backed both horses in a £1 double won £80.

Tanit River, which Tim believes could be a Welsh Grand National prospect, came home 17 lengths ahead of the Jonjo O'Neill trained *Join The Clan* and *Fields Of Glory* won by half-a-length from *Chain Of Beacons*.

Twenty-four hours later at Haydock Park, Tim's seven-year-old *DadsInTrouble* won the closing Peover Handicap Hurdle with Alan Johns in the saddle.

At Chepstow, Paul Morgan who used to work for Tim, saw his *Court Frontier* win the 188Bet.Co.UK Handicap Chase in good style under Denis O'Regan and former Welsh point-to-pointer *Gardiners Hill* ridden by Paul Moloney finished five lengths ahead of Tim's *William Money* in the Bet To Get 30 At 188Bet Handicap Chase.

BRIAN LEE

Mini football section a success

THE Vale of Glamorgan mini section added the under-6s age group over a year ago to play out of Jenner Park on a Sunday morning.

This age group has now grown to over 18 teams playing on Sunday. It's been a great success and we have clubs from all over the Vale entering and enjoying for some their first taste of football.

Its also an eye opener to parents who can settle back and watch from the seats as the young players enjoy the chance to play amongst friends in a safe and secure environment.

To get your child started or involved with a local club please search our website http://www.vgmfl.co.uk/ or search for our Facebook page, Vale of Glamorgan mini section under-6s to under-11s.

A big thank you to all the helpers behind the scenes who make this possible each week while doing it in a voluntary capacity.

LS

Ladies captain drives in for 2017!

ON a cold misty morning on January 17, the captain's drive-in took place, the ladies' captain of Cottrell Park, Jeannette Williams, drove the ball into the gloom.

Flags were put out to guess the place where the ball would land and this was won by Anne Woosnam.

A nine hole Texas Scramble competition took place - the winners were Frances Webber, Kay Bradbury and Jenny Knott with 36.6 points.

Following in the tradition of clapping in the ladies' captain, 50 ladies sat down to an excellent lunch. Prizes were presented to the winners, and then Jeannette thanked all the ladies for supporting her, with special thanks to those that had helped on the day. Flowers were presented to Jeannette.

Kay Bradbury, past captain, gave a vote of thanks - a good day was had by all.

CB

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Nine tries for rampant Bridgend Athletic RFC

FIELDING probably their best side this season Bridgend Athletic gained a comprehensive 57-5 victory against Builth Wells, crossing for nine tries.

This was their first league double – though the corresponding fixture was a narrow 15-13 victory against a side that had won its previous match against high flying Aberavon Quins by 22-12.

The Athletic showed their intentions from the start moving the ball along the line and dominating the early exchanges. An excellent 40 metre break by wing Mike Powell set up a scrum 10 metres from the Bulls' line.

Half backs Aled Thomas and Luke Morgan moved the ball quickly to centre Marc Bennett who chipped over the defence for Bevan to gather and cross wide out.

From the restart inter passing between wing Chris Price and full back Dan Howells opened a gap that the supporting flanker Ben Howe exploited to run in from 30 metres. Bevan converted to open a 12-0 lead.

The third try was a flash of brilliance from centre Bennett who made a break from 40 metres out and side stepped his way over. Bevan converted.

Builth Wells were reduced to 14 men when their lock was sin binned following a referee warning for his side consistently offending.

The Athletic pack then got in on the act. Nathan Holman found flanker Chris John from a five-metre line out and the pack drove him over for his first and the Athletic bonus point try in the 25th minute. Bevan converted from wide out.

Builth Wells to their credit then came back into the game and pressed without being able to break down a resolute Athletic defence in which the back row of Howe, John and Stuart Edbrooke were outstanding.

With the final move of the half centre Michael Hathaway broke clear and once again flanker Howe was on hand to finish the move for his second match try and fifth of the season. Bevan's conversion gave the Athletic a 33-0 half-time lead.

The Athletic started the second half again applying early pressure and a good handling move saw hooker Nathan Holman create an overlap for John to cross in the corner for his second try.

The Athletic were then reduced to 14 men with the first of three second half yellow cards. Builth Wells took advantage driving their captain and lock Wayne Morris over the line from a five-metre line out to reduce the deficit to 38-5.

The Athletic front row of Matt Muir, Wayne Fooks, Nathan Holman and replacement Lewis Davies had given the Bulls problems all match.

When Builth Wells dropped the scrum to prevent a pushover try, the referee had no hesitation in running behind the posts for a penalty try which Bevan converted.

When centre Michael Hathaway charged down a clearance kick scrum half Aled Thomas fed new replacement Stuart Floyd-Ellis and the youth centre ran in from half way to bring up 50 points with his first touch of the ball.

Youth outside-half Bevan converted for a match haul of 17 points and a man of match award for an all-round competent display.

The Athletic completed the rout moving the ball all along the line from one touchline to the other for replacement wing Garin Lougher to cross for his first Athletic try.

All 20 players including locks Griff Davies and Jonathon Stoker and replacements hooker Lee Murphy and flanker Jonathon Howard played their part in the Athletic's best performance of the season. Next up this coming Saturday is an away fixture at Cwmllynfell.

The club would like to thank Mr John Naisbitt of Cotacabin for sponsoring the fixture.

Heol Y Cyw second XV 19, Bridgend Athletic second XV 25

Following victories over Nantyfyllon and Tondu, Bridgend Athletic second XV made it three successive 2017 Mid Glamorgan Premier League wins with a 25-19 defeat of Heol Y Cyw. They outscored the home team by three tries to two.

Wing Chris Walker ran a good angle off outside half Scott Jones to cross under the posts for the first Athletic try and his 11th senior try of the season.

The Athletic kicked a penalty to the corner and good driving play by the forwards saw hooker Gethin Cattle pushed over for the second try.

A blind side move off a scrum saw quick ball from a ruck off loaded to prop Rhys Evenden who came around the corner to cross for the third try.

Scott Jones converted two of the tries and kicked two penalties to complete the Athletic's 25 points, and bring up 51 personal points for the season.

The Athletic's backs ran strongly throughout with good possession from the forwards, but disappointingly several try-scoring overlaps were shunned by whitewash fever.

Hopefully this can be rectified this Saturday when Glynneath visit Newbridge Fields.

AB

Less running and more flying – as Aled Jones crosses the tryline. All pictures by Gareth Anthony.

Tondu top the table after Celtic victory

Matthew Davies attacks the Maesteg Celtic line.

It was an emphatic 36-9 win for Tondu in the end but only after Maesteg Celtic had deprived them of the ball for the opening 20 minutes.

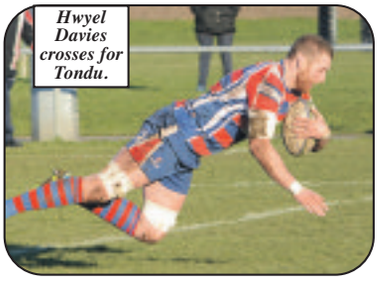
A great run by left wing David Povey saw the ball moved inside and a barn storming run from second row captain Hywel Davies saw him grab the game's first try, Josh Tatchell adding the extra points to cancel out an early penalty from Celtic's full back Peter Jenkins.

That was followed by a stunning run from center Matthew Davies who offloaded to right wing Sam Grabham to sail over in the corner, Jenkins slotting a second penalty for the visitors to make it 12-6 to Tondu at the break.

The second period started with another spectacular break from centre Matthew Davies who put full back Aled Jones clear to score the home side's third try.

Jenkins then kicked another penalty for the visitors before Tondu opened the floodgates, firstly through a nice bit of trickery from scrum half Gareth Lindenburn which brought the bonus point try midway through the half, with Tatchell adding the conversion.

Tondu's fifth came a few minutes later when outside half Paul Smithson put flanker Jon Penpraze in near the posts. It was now just a matter of how many Tondu would score and their sixth and final try was left to the prolific Sam Grabham.



Hwyel Davies crosses for Tondu.

Captain Hywel Davies said: "The defence was outstanding which laid the platform for us to play some good rugby; Celtic made us work hard to get the bonus point win."

This win saw Tondu move to the top of the table after Ystradgynlais' game fell foul to the weather.

MS

Pencoed end losing streak... *WHILE PHOENIX CRUISE*

PENCOED ended their losing run in no uncertain manner with this comprehensive seven try victory over Brynamman at the Recreation Ground, the final score 45-8.

Incisive running from Lloyd Bargery saw the centre get a fine try hat trick, loose head prop forward James Tredray got a brace with Morgan Jones and Ryan Russell also crossing the whitewash.

Daniel Page got a consolation try for Brynamman with outside-half David Jones kicking a penalty.

Home hooker Rhys Pilliner enjoyed a man of the match performance on his debut, busy about the park while hitting his lineout jumpers consistently and playing his part in a dominant Pencoed scrum between props Kieron Moore and Tredray.

The front rows efforts were supplemented by industrious locks Ricky Somers and Tom Swansbury, flankers Rhys Watkins and Carl Leather were always competitive at the breakdown with young Dan Watkins particularly prominent in the loose from No 8.

Half backs Rhys Clark and Jake Lloyd moved the ball wide whenever possible to their eager threequarter line who profited with five of the home tries.

On Saturday Pencoed host fourth placed Morriston in Division 2 West Central, kick-off 2.30pm.

Ynysddu under-18 girls 0, Pencoed Phoenix under-18 girls 44

With the home ranks depleted as early as the opening quarter, Phoenix sportingly matched numbers in this league encounter.

On the day Phoenix ran out comfortable winners with tries from Kayleigh Powell (3) Laura Keeble (2) Caitlin Smith, Jade Thomas and Megan Whittaker; Powell added two conversions.

TR

ABOVE: Morgan Jones gets caught up in a ruck, while BELOW LEFT: Jake Lloyd prepares for a kick at goal, and BELOW RIGHT: James Tredary crosses for a try. All pictures by Julie Hancock.

Latest news from Porthcawl Bridge Club

Congratulations to John Beard, Peter Bugden, Terry Dolan, and Roger Plant on winning the Club Teams Championship for the Margaret Thomas Bowl.

The club also held its New Year's party, at which members brought their surplus Christmas fare, with the club providing the wine.

Other results at the club: Thursday, January 5 – First, Peter and Sandie Jenkins; second, Terry Dolan and Roger Plant.

Saturday, January 7 – First, John Beard and Tony Haworth; second, Terry Dolan and Pat Haworth.

Thursday, January 12 – First, Rob Charlesworth and John Beard; second, Tony Haworth and Keith Davison.

Saturday, January 14 – First, Eleanor Jones and Winnie Phillips; second, Kath Grossey and Dian Jones.

Thursday, January 19 – Margaret Thomas Bowl: Winners, John Beard, Peter Bugden, Terry Dolan, Roger Plant; runners-up, Janet Richards, Alwyn Hill, Pat Roper, John Cobby.

The club meets twice a week on Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre 6.45pm–9.45pm; visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call secretary Trish on 01656 785794

TH